



Hello everyone,

Welcome to this belated GSDR newsletter edition, we have all been so busy that we are combining September and October into one. We have had a very busy couple of months which you will see from the contents of this newsletter.

So, yet another year has raced by, the clocks went back at the end of October, soon we have the shortest day and then Christmas - oh no not the 'C' word already!

On that note please remember that you can help raise lots of money for the rescue when shopping online if you go through [Easyfundraising](#) first. It costs you nothing.

I don't know how many people know this but I am responsible for managing the website and this year I have been very busy sourcing information and writing articles on natural health and healthy diets. This has generated a rapidly growing interest and I am being contacted on a frequent basis now by email and phone by people who have woken up to the fact that we have been lied to in relation the health of our pets and ourselves for that matter.

The vaccine issue is a big one and those that have lost their beloved pets at an early age are realising that this need not have happened. On the issue of vaccines, there have never been any scientific studies comparing unvaccinated dog to vaccinated ones. They wouldn't want you knowing that you are compromising your pets health.....

I am constantly updating information on the website and I would encourage you to have a read by clicking [here](#).

It's great to see the strong team spirit that has developed in the regions, the friendships that have formed and the dedication of the teams in helping the dogs that need our help.

Once again I thank all the fantastic volunteers who make GSDR the success that it is

Best Wishes,

*Jayne*

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. Arthur Schopenhauer



Once again the team from the South East were at Pup Aid at Primrose Hill, London, right next to London Zoo.

Pup Aid is an event trying to raise awareness of puppy farming with the aim of stamping it out, and what a worthy cause this is, as many of you will know.

It was a 5am start for some of us (Linda Wood had started weeks ago in organising it and what a great job she did). We all met up at 7.30 on the Hill, Jayne met us there with the large GSDR gazebo. It was great to see her again and boy did she work hard, no resting on your laurels with Jayne about.

So 2 hrs later we were just about ready, exhausted but ready. We did attract a lot of people to our tent with a great tombola with posh prizes! We also had a lot of interest in the dogs and this has borne fruit from the applications I see coming in from the London area. Also the attraction of two of our rescued dogs who came, Jake adopted from the kennels by Stephen England who also was a great help on the day, and a good ambassador for the rescue and Zak also from kennels who was adopted by Nancy Cannell.

Dave our resident photographer was with us and as usual the pictures were great, we also found he had hidden talents in his ability to attract people to the tombola!

Lynda Coombes also came to help this year and enjoyed her first fundraising adventure with us, the first of many we hope.

We were busy all day, and raised valuable monies for the rescue approx £500. This all helps the rescue, dogs and kennel fees.

We also had some vollies turn up to support us some were nice and some took the mickey but we took their money off them either way.



This year the sun shone all day until about 4.30 then it poured down and we were all like drowned rats, still that's better than last year when it rained all day on and off. In all we all enjoyed the day, lots of laughs and hugging went on, many funny moments but the one that sticks in my mind the most is Jake. He was only adopted some 6 months ago and this was his first big outing (although he does belong to our walk group in Danbury) Steven had never had a dog before but they are a match made in heaven. Jake had been very good all day but towards the end he got rather tired he pushed passed me, went under the tablecloth covering the table and curled up and went fast asleep, bless him.

We're looking forward to doing it all again next year, thanks to everyone who helps along the way. Christine Merritt.







Maria Hamilton held another successful online auction raising £252.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and all of those competitive bidders who raised so much money.

With Christmas just around the corner keep hold of any unwanted pressies, there'll be an auction coming in the new year!



Gillian Marsden & Sheila Pankhurst attended the Animal Ark Aid Show with their stall and raised £98 on the day.

Animal Ark Aid donated a further £100 from the show profits, they're an amazing group of animal lovers who have raised almost £30,000 which is donated to animal charities which they support.

We're very grateful for their ongoing support, you do an amazing job.



Denise Lea hosted another fun packed Agility day raising £130.

Not only is it great fun and great entertainment for the spectators, but there's ways tea and cake. What more could you ask for in a day out?!



Beautiful Bella pulled in the crowds at Crossgates Shopping Centre, Leeds, where she was ably assisted by Gillian Marsden, Sheila Pankhurst, Alison Harrison, Bella's dad Mark Panther and Mark's Mum.

What a team they turned out to be, the generous shoppers of Leeds dug deep raising an amazing £749.23! Brilliant result team.



There was a double fundraiser weekend Oop North, our very own TFB with an array of vollie & GSD visitors at Pets at Home York. Then over at the Idle store Mark Panther, Alison Elphee Vicki Moss and Toni Pickering were in action, jointly the teams raised an outstanding £466!

What a brilliant weekend, with winter approaching and adoptions dropping over the festive period these much needed funds are essential to keep a roof over the heads of our kennel dwellers.



The South east region are celebrating, they have a supermodel in the region!

Some months ago they entered one of our dogs Lana into the Kennel Club Calendar competition. The wonderful Dave (who also beautifully captured our kennels dogs to relaunch them on the web site) did us the great honour of taking lots of pictures of Lana, who at the time was in kennels and needing a home.

They didn't think they stood a chance, but low and behold an email arrived to say that Lana has been chosen as a winner and her picture would appear as March in the Kennel Club 2017 calendar!

On October 22nd they went off to Excel London to Discover Dogs with Lana and her new owner (yes she got adopted too – double reason to celebrate!) as representatives of German Shepherd Dog Rescue.

A fabulous day was had by all, and our very own supermodel lapped up the limelight like a true professional.



## Pepa: Anatomy of an Adoption

It all began for me in the way that so many things do here ... with an email from Sarah. 'There's this lovely dog in Spain who needs a home...is there anything we can do to help? They'll pay all the expenses!' Then came the magic words. 'She is a GSD'.

This 'lovely dog' proved to be Pepa, a mature lady who had come to the rescue with another male as a result of a bereavement. They were a bonded pair and the rescue was keen to keep them together if at all possible. It wasn't. Pepa was stressed by all that had happened to her and clearly anguished and scared by the loss of her owner. Her insecurity led her to overbond with her foster carer and she had to be returned to the rescue.

BARC is a small, but very active independent Spanish rescue, in Busot. (Busot Animal Rescue Concern). When I began corresponding with BARC about Pepa, John, the rescue secretary, explained their difficulty to me. In the past they could have been quite confident about rehoming a lovely lady such as Pepa amongst 'ex-pats' locally in the community. Sadly, Brexit had put an end to all of that. Already the fall in the value of the pound was affecting incomes and the general level of uncertainty as to whether 'ex pat' residents would even be able to remain meant that there was suddenly no possibility of anyone taking on another family responsibility. Who knew that there is a Brexit dimension to rescue? Pepa was safe, in that BARC would care for her in their kennels for the rest of her life: but we all know that GSDs need a home and to be able to bond with their human: Pepa especially!

Our hearing of Pepa had involved quite a chain of contacts already. I don't know how many volunteers were involved with this little diva already in Spain - both the rescue volunteers and the kennel staff certainly. But then there was Elaine. She lives in the UK, in Eastern Region, and she is the 'fixer' for BARC, here in the UK. She publicizes the plight of these Spanish dogs and acts as a liaison for them with English adopters, either individuals or, as in our case, a rescue. When the negotiations seemed to falter at certain stages, again, Elaine was there, explaining and facilitating. I wish she would 'fix' my life for me! It was she who contacted Sarah, who then contacted me.

As you will know not many people contact us saying that they would like to adopt an older dog. But as luck would have it, I was at the stage of negotiating an adoption with just such a person and so told her Pepa's tale. She was touched by her plight and agreed to explore the possibility of adopting her, very enthusiastically. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Further research from BARC revealed that Pepa's attachment to one owner might be problematical to her two youngish sons. And so that was not a go.

However, I had already asked Jayne if Pepa could become a GSDR dog. At the very least, she could come to the UK and be kennelled here in the hope of an early adoption. And so I turned to Christine in South East who, bless her, agreed enthusiastically. She has a huge area and more contacts and resources than here in sleepy Eastern. Again negotiations foundered slightly, as Christine was about to go on holiday but had already confirmed that she would be happy to take this forward when she returned. John in Spain was uncertain about the way forward and even advertised Pepa again on Facebook! Further emails flowed back and forward between Elaine, John, myself and Christine as to who was to contact whom and when. But eventually the plan came together.

Christine was always enthusiastic about Pepa and not only agreed that she would kennel her in an emergency but only went and found her an excellent home! A gentleman whom she knew had recently lost his last dog. He had adopted from South East before and had had several older dogs over the years. Pepa would live alone with him and so she could bond as intensively as she wished. We know one gentleman who will be guarded diligently!

So, how many people were involved in this loving chain of rescue? How many hours of work, not only caring for Pepa herself but in the admin and endless negotiations? I see posts on Facebook saying that adoptions can take fourteen hours of volunteer time. This one must have taken nearer a hundred! I always wonder at all of this with my own boy George who came to me from Romania, again through the good offices of South East. How could anything like this have been possible in the days before social media and the internet? People talk disparagingly of the way in which jihadis are helped by their communication networks. Well, to set against this, in rescue we have our own chains of communication and our very special social networks of goodwill.



# great birmingham run®



Two of our Central region volunteers, Robyn & Will took part in the Great Birmingham Run recently.

This half marathon course took them from the City Centre south towards the world famous cricketing arena of Edgbaston and on to Bournville, the home of Cadbury World (my kind of place!).

Will ran dressed as a shepherd and they raised a tail wagging £430!

Irene would like to say a huge thank you to them both, and hopes their aching limbs are long forgotten.

It's always nice to see how our adopted dogs are getting on, here's two which made Irene smile...



WHO NEEDS TO EXFOLIATE .....

Sheba loves her days at the beach and she has such a lovely dad she gets to snuggle up at bedtime – sandy bits and all – how cute is she!



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET READY?

Zeus is always first out the door and puts herself firmly in the driving seat whilst waiting for the off!

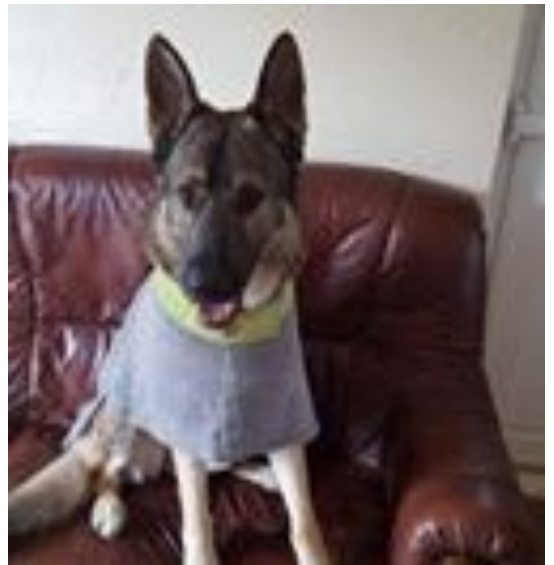


## There's a new trend gripping the North East....

Being friends with Chrissie Garbutt often comes at a price – you get stitched up – into fundraising! Chrissie's kind hearted and very talented friend Kathy has made these magnificent dog robes, I think you'll agree that they're fantastic.

The dogs certainly enjoy wearing them as you can see and now there's even a waiting list.

They're raised in excess of £900 for GSDR, a huge thank you goes to Kathy for the many, many hours spent at her sewing machine, it's most appreciated.





## The day that tragedy struck the North East by Julie Wilkinson

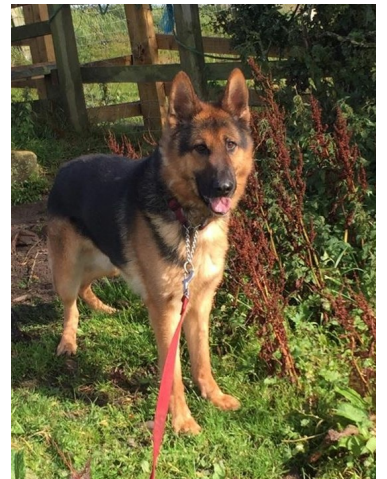
Monday 3rd October started like any other day and never in my wildest dreams did I think of the devastating message I would receive whilst at work regarding the destruction by fire of Debbie Sharpe's kennel block. Sadly, five dogs lost their lives, three GSDR kennel boys Max, Mitch and Jackson, plus two of Debbie's own dogs a beautiful bonded pair Zeus and Dog.

I cannot explain or really put into words the emotions that were felt when we heard this heart-breaking news, a tragic event which led to Debbie, a valued and experienced volunteer suffering severe burns as she tried to release the dogs, the flames and heat just got too strong.

Everyone at GSDR are devastated at what has occurred. We want to honour our beautiful boys who tragically lost their lives on that day, but take some comfort in knowing that they were loved.

Emma Botwright set up a fundraising page which received over £8,000 in donations from people who were saddened by the news but wanted to show their support. We were overwhelmed by this generosity and it will help with costs such as emergency kennelling and food etc.

The North East team wishes Debbie a speedy recovery and you're in our thoughts.



Jackson, Max, Mitch, Zeus and Dog - God bless boys, go play with your pals over the bridge.



## 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 07949 047139 [nancy\\_c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nancy_c@hotmail.co.uk)

Enquiries: Nancy Cannell 07949 047139 [nancy\\_c@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nancy_c@hotmail.co.uk)

### 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.gsdr@gmail.com](mailto:julie.gsdr@gmail.com)

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)

