

**Winner of the Wet Nose Best Breed Rescue
August Newsletter Issue 7**



Hello everyone,

Well, July really has flown by and what a month it has been. There really is no let up for us with 90 rehoming applications, 210 adoption applications and 36 new volunteer applications. Sadly as previously stated, only a small percentage of those that apply to adopt are successful. Too many people these days are looking for easy dogs with absolutely no issues and we don't get too many of them.

We still have too many dogs that have been in kennels for far too long but two long stayers finally made their escape into forever homes this week.



The lovely Kara who spent over a year in kennels has found her new mum and dad but a personal high for me was that Simba finally found a home. Our Simba has quite a fan club and not only was he in kennels for over a year but he wasn't even a German Shepherd!

July really has been roller coaster of emotions with all eyes being focussed on our delightful little Coco who seems to have captured the hearts of many. Not only has she survived Parvo against the odds, but has now come through her thoracic surgery. The fundraising for Coco's treatment has been truly staggering and my thanks go out to all those that have made this happen and push us very close to that £10K target.

Yes things really did hot up this month and not just the weather, so July 2013 must have to go on record as the best month for fundraising ever.

It just goes to show that even during difficult times, when we all pull together we can really make it happen.

I would also like to thank Sussex Alsatian Rescue for their very generous donation of £4,500. Sadly this rescue has been wound up after the death of its founder, but we will make sure that their donation is used to help the many GSD's coming into our care.

My hat goes off to all GSDR volunteers at the frontline who have to deal with the day to day issues of running this rescue and for dealing with the general public who don't always make life easy.

You are all responsible for making this rescue the success that it is, you should all feel very proud of your achievements.

Until the next edition, keep up the good work.

Thank you everyone.

Jayne

An Update on Coco

Following her discharge from hospital where our little Coco fought Parvo she went back to her foster home for some R&R to regain her strength before surgery. Weighing in at just 9 kilos she still weighs less than half what a normal healthy GSD puppy should weigh at her age. Coco was diagnosed with a Persistent Right Aortic Arch (PRAA); an abnormal fibrous structure was collapsing the Oesophagus at the base of the heart and caused her to regurgitate her food. She has successfully undergone surgery and after a short stay in intensive care has now been allowed home with a very strict set of aftercare instructions:

- Daily medication to be administered as directed.
- Wound care - If Coco manages to remove the bandage and lick the wound, she will certainly contaminate it. This would lead to a breakdown or some life-threatening complications.
- Coco remains at risk for accumulation of fluid or air in her chest. If she appears distressed, unwell or unwilling to eat, is excessively panting or weaker, please ring us.
- Feeding - Coco can be fed with a wet diet and must be fed while standing (chest vertical for 5 minutes) and should be offered some water just after a meal in order to optimise the emptying of the Oesophagus. No solid food can be given for another two weeks at least.
- Please monitor episodes of regurgitation.
- Coco is not allowed to run or jump. A **single** jump could lead to breakdown of the repair that is already under tension. The exercise restriction is for 4 weeks. She is only allowed to walk 4 times daily for 10 minutes, on a lead, for the next 4 weeks.

The surgery took place at ChesterGates Referral Hospital in Chester where Coco was admitted under the care of Francois Saulnier a European Specialist in Soft Tissue and Orthopaedic Small Animal Surgery.

Francois said "We are very pleased with Coco's recovery however she remains a critically ill patient and needs some careful monitoring"

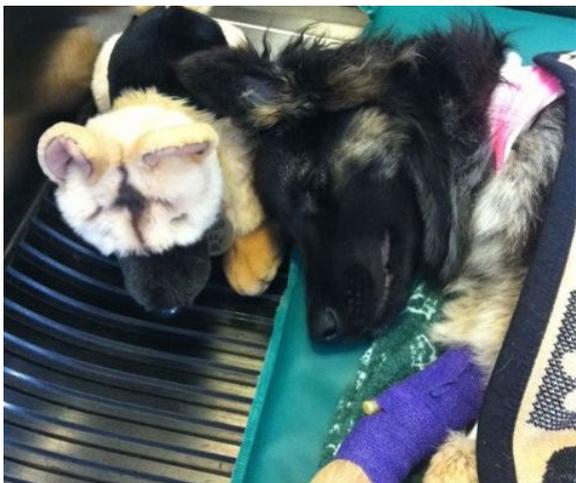
Coco will return to ChesterGates for a review with Francois this week.

GSDR refused to give up on this little girl and she refused to give up on her chance to live.

The Coco - Surviving Is My Dream appeal was launched to raise £10,000 to pay for this life saving surgery and aftercare. As ever your generosity has been overwhelming with donations pouring in from around the world. Penny O'Callaghan and Maria Hamilton managed yet another hugely successful online auction raising in excess of £1,200 from generous bids on donated items. The GSDR team and supporters know no bounds when it comes to raising funds to save a life; I am in awe of you all.

We are almost at target. To date we have raised a staggering £7,831.02 with an additional £1692.03 in Gift Aid. Today's total stands at **£9,523.05!** We're on the last leg of our fundraising campaign with just £476.95 to go. If you would like to make a donation please visit Coco's Just Giving page by clicking [here](#).

Thank you to each and every one of you who have supported the campaign and special thanks to Wayne & Will for the amazing care you are providing for our very special little girl.



Coco in Intensive Care with her beloved teddy



Discharged from hospital and back at home



The GSDR 2014 Calendar

The theme for our next calendar has been chosen as:

GSDR – Dedicated to rescuing and rehoming German Shepherd Dogs and Puppies –
“We all love a happy ending”

Do you have one of our wonderful rescue dogs? If so, would you like them to appear in the GSDR 2014 calendar?

Janine Kerr has kindly taken on the task of organising the calendars and is looking for stories of some of our worst rescue cases that are now thriving in their forever homes – thanks to GSDR and of course you.

To take the opportunity for your beautiful GSD to feature, please email Janine with their “before” picture and an “after” (now) picture with a write up of their story.

Email address: janinekerr@sky.com the deadline for submissions is Sunday 25th August.

Each month will have a space for sponsorship where an advert or message can be displayed for just £30. Anyone interested in sponsoring a page should contact Janine to discuss further. It's a great way to spread the word of your organisation whilst supporting your favourite charity. So come on folks, let's show people what GSDR is all about – turning awful neglect cases around to happy fur babies .

The Prayer of a Stray

Dear God please send me somebody who'll care!
 I'm tired of running, I'm sick with despair.
 My body is aching; it's so racked with pain.
 And Dear God I pray as I run in the rain,
 That someone will love me and give me a home.
 A warm cosy bed I can call my own
 My last owner neglected me and chased me away
 To rummage in garbage and live as a stray.
 But now God I'm tired and hungry and cold.
 And I'm afraid that I'll never grow old.
 They've chased me with sticks and hit me with stones
 While I run in the streets just looking for bones!
 I'm not really bad God, please help if you can.
 For I have become just a "VICTIM OF MAN!"
 I'm wormy Dear God and I'm ridden with fleas and
 All that I want is an owner to please!
 If you find one for me God, I'll try to be good
 I won't run away and I'll do as I should.
 I don't think I'll make it too long on my own,
 Cause I'm getting so weak and I'm so all alone.
 Each night as I sleep in the bushes I cry,
 Cause I'm so afraid God, that I'm gonna die!
 And I've got so much love and devotion to give,
 That I should be given a new chance to live.
 So Dear God PLEASE, PLEASE answer my prayer
 And send me somebody who WILL really care...



King was picked up as a stray on the 8th February. He's one of the lucky ones, he was placed in foster care with Angie Vaughan. Almost six months later look at the old boy now!



King's prayer for someone to care was answered. Could you be a guardian angel and offer a homeless dog a foster home? Please complete the foster application form on the website by clicking [here](#).



We're sniffing out stories for our newsletter

If there's anything you'd like included please email

gsdr.newsletter@btinternet.com

Our Vollies out and about



The people of Meanwood certainly weren't mean when they dug deep to donate £224 in just one day. Team Fat blokes welcomed the company of Angela Hargreaves, North East Area Co-ordinator (pictured) with the lovely Heidi and Emma Coldwell with little Fern. In July the team raised a tremendous total of £1984.55.

There's not long to go until the dynamic duo celebrate their first anniversary, don't forget they're aiming to raise £14,000 in one year. Can they do it? You bet they can!

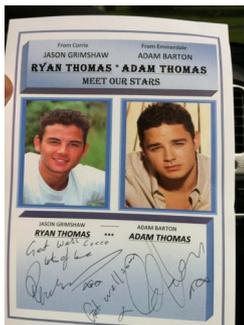


Thank you to Eileen Welsh who talked her friend into helping her run a car boot stall raising £100. Members of the North East walk group had a rummage and donated unwanted items for her to sell. The generous Geordies were out in force that day, one canny shopper overheard Eileen telling Coco's story and donated £10. Another bought a book for 50p, paid with £5 and told Eileen to keep the change. One kind man made a £4 purchase and when offered an old carrier bag paid a pound for it! There are still some kind people out there and when you find them they restore your faith in mankind.

Thanks for your efforts Eileen, keep up the great work!

The Kirkstall Festival is the largest community festival in Leeds held in the beautiful grounds of 12th century Kirkstall Abbey. The GSDR team were out in force with Jeff Heyes in charge of logistics –collecting the equipment, putting it all together on site then dismantling and returning it at the end of the day. Gillian Marsden, Alice Hutton and Emma Coldwell were assisted by Emma's beautiful girls Chloe & Livy and of course little Fern. Angela Vaughan brought the handsome King to meet his adoring public until his foster dad and chauffeur Myles arrived bringing big fluff Molly and took King home for a rest. Gillian is Fundraising Co-ordinator for the North East region and was delighted with the team effort raising £198 on the day.

Adlington & District C a r n i v a l



If you're an avid soap fan then you'll recognise these two brothers Adam & Ryan Thomas, both actors from Emmerdale & Corrie. They appeared at the Adlington Carnival and happily posed for a photo with the star struck Andy Peake and the beautiful Zara. They even sent our Coco get well wishes, signing autographs for her fundraising campaign. Andy Peake, Janine Kerr and Dawn Sharples Pugh had a fantastic day raising £168.



Notcutts

Helping gardeners since 1897

Always on the lookout for a new venue, Team Hammond in the Eastern region set up the GSDR stall at Notcutts Garden Centre in Norwich. They enjoyed a great day outside on the Saturday but due to an incorrect weather forecast (that happens a lot in the East!) on the Sunday they set up stall inside which meant the lovely Pippa couldn't join them. Many thanks to Adele Barker for setting up the date and spending the day on duty, and to Melissa Crowe and Bridget Warns for popping over to offer support. The weekend generated £187 in donations and merchandise sales and a huge donation of dog food worth over £800 from [Notcutts](#) themselves which is most appreciated. A great effort guys!



It was a family affair on the GSDR stall at the Midsummer Mayhem in Newcastle, Staffordshire where Pam Rayworth was assisted by daughter Alex and even her grandchildren were on duty! Members of the 'Stuck in the Middle' walk group popped by to offer support with their well-behaved dogs being great ambassadors for the breed. The team raised a staggering amount of money, £165 on the tombola, £41.10 in donations, £230 from the sale of Strawberries and Jam and Pam has also collected over £100 for her sponsored slim! Never one to miss an opportunity Pam took her new foster Skye over to the Croft Veterinary Practice stall for a free health check. Thanks to everyone who attended & donated and special thanks to the Rayworth family, a great team effort.



Many thanks go to the **Coventry Branch of the British Association of German Shepherd Dogs (B.A.G.S.D.)** for their very kind donation of £500. The club has been holding classes in Coventry for over 50 years with the foremost aim to assist owners of GSD's to train their dogs to be first class family pets and canine citizens of which they can be proud. For more information on the Coventry branch, please click [here](#) to visit their website.

Pictured are Sharron James with Lucy, Kevin McDonagh Branch Chairman presenting the cheque to Phil O'Connor GSDR Volunteer, and Suzanne Scott with Sheba.



Animal Magic Dog Club in North Norfolk very kindly donated £125, the proceeds of a village dog show. Fiona Leadbetter trains at the club, attending Obedience on Walks classes with Frankie and was delighted to receive the donation on our behalf.



Patricia & Leoni manning the stand

Pets at Home in Great Yarmouth was the venue for the Crowe family's first fundraising venture. Melissa Crowe was assisted by her Mum, Dad and Daughter and not forgetting the gorgeous Rebel who was borrowed from Mandi Wilks for the day. Their first ever event generated almost £50 in donations and more importantly raised awareness of the breed and our rescue. One shopper hadn't heard of our rescue until they stopped to speak to Melissa. Well done to the Crowe family, here's to many more successful events!



Melissa & Rebel—he does love his kisses!



The lovely Ruby certainly fell on her feet when she found her forever home. Here's to a lifetime of love and being spoilt, you deserve it beautiful girl.

As an A/C you never know quite what the next phone call will bring as Irene explains...

On the 24th July I received a phone call from Tracy at the Council Housing Team in Stoke. A tenant had vacated the premises leaving a dog and had confirmed they no longer wanted her.

Team GSDR swing into immediate action with the lovely Win Ward dropping everything to dash to the property to meet Tracy. The full story evolved, it seems the dog's owner is an elderly gent who'd had to move in with relatives and had been unable to take his beloved dog that he'd had since she was a puppy. The dog, Skye was being fed but was living amongst her own mess, the stench was horrendous. We're just told that her name is Skye and she's eight years old. Despite being in the middle of preparation for the Midsummer Mayhem fundraiser, Pam Rayworth offered to provide an emergency foster place for poor Skye. Win and Pam gave her a good brushing to make her more comfortable but the following day, unable to bear the smell anymore, Pam gave Skye a bath. Skye settled into foster care with another Shep, Perdy, for company. As happens sometimes, these foster dogs have a habit of moving in, so Skye really landed on all four paws that day as she found her forever home with Pam. When I sent Tracy an update on Skye with her before and after photo's she was blown away replying...

"Hi Irene, Thank you so much for your help with Skye and for letting me have the photos – they are lovely she looks like a different dog now. Glad she's settled in. Anyone will be very lucky to have her. Thanks again, Tracy (Stoke Housing Department)"



Skye as she was



This really is the same dog! Thanks Pam for giving Skye a wonderful home.

Meet the Team



Lisa Scott Dog Co-Ordinator for The South

Hello, I live in sunny Clacton on Sea and although I currently have three Rotties, I have over twenty years of experience with GSD's.

I've been a volunteer since March this year when I started as a screener. I got hooked and was keen to do more, so I was delighted when I was offered the role of Dog Co-Ordinator for The South region. Part of my role is to match families that have passed home checks with dogs that require rehoming. I also do the follow ups, help with issues and pass them on to the relevant people. I also deal with all of the applications submitted for re-homing of dogs.

I organise transport for the dogs when they need moving, this is when you really rely on the team to pull together and when a challenge has arose there's nothing quite like the GSDR team! I work closely with Tracy North the South Area Co-Ordinator, even more now that the two Southern regions have now merged into one.

I totally love doing the job, it can be heart breaking when families have to give up their much loved dogs and it is always rewarding when you have matched the correct dog to the right family. It's great following the dogs from initial request to rehome through to a happy ending into their forever home. I absolutely recommend volunteering to anyone.

A message from Tracey North A/C for The South.

Now that the SE & SW regions are merged under the same co-ordinators we have set up a new Facebook page called South Regions Socialisation Group, Facebook users can click [here](#) to join the page. We currently need volunteers in a variety of roles, if you can spare any time to help our wonderful dogs please apply [here](#) and we'll be in touch to talk you through it. If anyone has any fundraising ideas or events that we could attend please let me know so that we can put the wheels in motion. I'm keen for the South to run as one big team so we can do what we do best – saving dogs.

How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester
Area Co-ordinator: Tracy North 01189 745387 crystalsheps@gmail.com
Dog Co-ordinator: Lisa Scott 07971 883354

South East

Kent / Hertfordshire / Essex / London / Surrey / East & West Sussex / IOW / Hampshire / Berkshire / Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire
Area Co-ordinator: Tracy North 01189 745387 crystalsheps@gmail.com
Dog Co-ordinators : Lisa Scott 07971 883354

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
Fundraising Co-ordinator: Robert Hammond garthbrooksnofences@hotmail.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

