

**Winner of the Wet Nose Best Breed Rescue
May Newsletter Issue 4**



Welcome to our spring, feels like summer edition of the GSDR newsletter. At last, the sun is shining, its warm and the days are longer which is just as well given all the activity going on at GSDR. There is so much going on now, it's hard to keep up!

April has been yet another busy month with lots of our dogs finding new homes. What is encouraging to see is that some of our dogs who have spent far too long in kennels have been placed in their new homes.

My tour continued with my trip Oop North to visit team NE where I was made most welcome by all. It was good to meet lots of new faces and fantastic to catch up with some old ones that I haven't seen for a very long time. It all started with a night with the girls, then a meet up Saturday morning at Pets @ Home with those famous 'Two Fat Blokes' plus one of our GSDRunners.



Saturday afternoon, we travelled further Oop North for yet another great GSDR walk. The dogs were all so well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves especially as there was lots of dirty water to splash around in.

I would just like to say, who ate all the lovely homemade cakes whilst I was talking? I only got a few crumbs!! I did however get a lovely necklace for myself made by one of our very talented craftspeople, Maria.

Girls, can I just say that I haven't laughed so much for ages - my chuckle muscles are still aching.

Ray and Si you really are amazing and loved watching you in action, nobody gets past you two.

Andy, you have my utmost admiration for doing the half marathon given you were not previously a runner and have trained in such a short time. Together with the girls relay team, GSDRunners will all do the rescue proud on the day.

I was very honoured on my trip to meet our beautiful fund raiser Tia the blind German Shepherd, who was taken on by GSDR last year. It was with great sadness to learn of the sudden death of Tia this week who was very much loved and who will be very much missed.





My next trips will be to walks in the Southern half of the country kicking off with the Bristol walk, where, I will be joined by Mandy from the kennels in Newport who will hopefully be bringing along Sam who is our longest stay kennel dog. We are hoping that with a bit more exposure, Sam will find his forever home having now spent a year and a half in kennels.

I also have invitations to attend the Berkshire and Kent walks so will get dates arranged for those.

Our fundraising has moved up a step with dedicated fundraisers in all regions now. We have a new merchandise co-ordinator who could sell fridges to Eskimos, a new volunteer co-ordinator and new co-ordinators in southern and eastern. There is no let up for our talented craftspeople that are busy sewing and making beautiful handcrafted items such as jewellery and our own branded doggy bandanas. The auctions are also still proving very popular.

We have had some big changes in the regions over the last few months and I would just like to thank all those that have worked so hard in helping restructure the regions and in getting the right people in place to move forward to meet the challenges of 2013. There is so much going on for GSDR at the moment, it's difficult to keep up.

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and we certainly know that GSDR sets the bar when it comes to German Shepherd rescue.

Once again I thank all of you volunteers that make this rescue the success that it is.

Jayne

York ShepFest 2013 29th & 30th June

A weekend packed full of fun for dogs and owners hosted by Denise Lea in aid of GSDR. Take part in Have a Go Agility, Fastest Recall, Junior Handler & face painting for the kids. And much more.

Pose for a portrait photograph with your pooch and fill your face at the BBQ feast. Camping available on site, there's also a limited number of kennel spaces for those of you wishing to take a few hours out to explore the historic city of York.

For more information check out the Facebook Page SHEPFEST 2013 or contact Emma at emma.coldwell@ntlworld.com

A weekend of fun and fundraising not to be missed! Watch this space, more information to come!



Everybody say Ahhhh! Look at that face!. Taken into emergency foster care at twelve weeks old as her owner couldn't cope with the ankle biting, little Keira stole her foster mum's heart.

Now called Jess, she's been adopted by her foster family and is growing at a rapid rate. This beautiful girl is a real chunky monkey and loving her new life!





If you're a Facebook user we have a new Volunteer Help page set up where you can post questions and seek advice from other vollies. There's also the latest version of forms and guidelines should you need them.



Search for GSDR Volunteer Help page.

We are keen to recruit more volunteers for various roles. If you would like to help but aren't sure in what way, please give our Volunteer Co-Ordinator a call. Matthew will be able to talk you through the various ways in which you can help, it's incredibly rewarding to know you've played a part in saving a dog or finding a forever home and you can give as little or as much time as you can spare. Matthew can be contacted on 07974 519620 or by email at m.young65@btinternet.com. You might just be the missing piece of the jigsaw that enables us to get a home check completed sooner or get a dog moved to safety. Covering the whole of England and Wales is a vast undertaking, without our dedicated volunteers it couldn't be done. If you're asked to complete a home check or dog assessment please let us know asap if you can help. It's likely that you're the only, or closest vollie, to the applicant. A swift turn around in adoption applications is key to finding forever homes for our special dogs.

And a final plea, whilst we need volunteers and Foster homes all around the country but we are especially short in the South. If you're based in the South East or South West of England please consider offering a Foster place, even if only short term. If you have any questions we can put you in touch with a experienced Foster carer so you can talk it over.

If you'd like to become a Volunteer please fill in the application form on our website:

www.germanshepherdrescue.co.uk/volunteerform



Customers staying at The Pier Hotel are offered a reduction in their room rate when they book directly and agree to donate a pound to GSDR. So, donate a pound and save nine, you can't go wrong!

Voted the No 1 hotel in Rhyl for 2012, if you fancy a break it's the perfect place to stay. Not only are rooms fabulous but you can talk dogs with the owners who are GSDR vollies. If you need a cuddle fix there's always the resident Sheps around for fuss too!



The 'Spring out of Kennels' auction has ended raising in excess of £600 once gift aid is added. A huge thanks goes out to Penny O'Callaghan for managing another successful Facebook fundraiser.

Many thanks to all the people who donated the items and to those who bid.

There's still time to sponsor our runners taking part in the Leeds Half Marathon.

They'll be collecting donations until the end of May.

Please visit the team fundraising page at :

www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/GSDRunners





If you're lucky enough to attend the Northern Group Walks then you might've been snapped by photographer Mark Watkinson.

Mark has taken some fabulous shots on the group walks; I've chosen a few of my favourites for this month's newsletter. Introduced to the walks by his friend and our vullie Alison Elphee, I'm sure you'll agree Mark has captured the true spirit of this wonderful breed. Mark is happy to provide a copy of any photos taken on the walks in exchange for a donation to GSDR. Donations can be made via the Virgin Money Giving Link on our website, please add gift aid too if you can.

Anyone interested in having a private photo shoot, please contact Mark through his website www.markwatkinsonphotography.co.uk

Thank you Mark for supporting GSDR.



Don't forget you can also follow us on Twitter. We currently have 2,068 followers with more joining every day. It's a great way to keep up to date and spread the word of the work we do.

You can follow us @GSDRofficial1



Why we do what we do. A message from Irene.

Back in February I was contacted to ask if I could help with a cruelty case that St Helens Council were progressing. They had lifted a shepherd type dog called Tina from a home weighing less than half her expected body weight. The photographs of Tina when lifted were horrendous and not for publication. The Council had removed the dog and taken her to kennels where she received veterinary treatment for malnutrition and a severe skin allergy (probably due to fleas). They kept her in their care until she achieved 20 kilos in body weight which was when we were asked to help.

After a few phone calls we were sorted - A new foster carer to GSDR in the Central Region, Michelle Plumb kindly offered to foster Tina and one of our NW volunteers, Mark Stokes, also dropped everything in order to collect Tina from the kennels and take her to meet her foster parents.

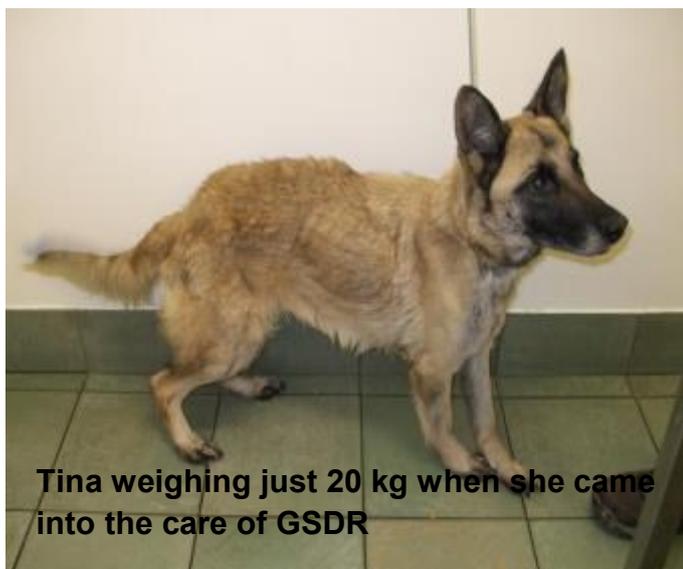
Over the next few weeks, Tina was bathed with her special shampoo to clear up her skin infection and given four meals a day to keep up her food intake. She was encouraged to join in with Michelle's family life slowly and calmly as not surprisingly she was a timid little girl. However she bonded immediately with Michelle's other dogs and didn't even mind the cats. Tina was re-named Lunar, once she had settled and was fully back on track she was ready for re-homing. A lovely family adopted Lunar in March.

She now lives with another GSD called Stella and the family are delighted with her. As you can see from the final photograph she is one bonny, happy dog, she doesn't even resemble to poor emaciated waif removed from her original home.

So if you've ever thought about fostering, but think you couldn't do it because you couldn't give the dog up, then you're not alone. If Michelle had been asked to keep Lunar forever, would she? Of course she would. But by opening her home to this dog in desperate need, encouraging her to flourish and be happy, Lunar was able to be placed in a forever home. This means Michelle and her family were able to help another, the queue of dogs needing a foster home is endless.

If you could find the space in your heart and your home to become a foster carer please fill in the form on our website. You really can save a life.

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS SUCH A HAPPY ENDING.
FANTASTIC JOB!**





Keep an eye on our website for a new and exciting range of merchandise coming soon!



Up for grabs now, for just £14.99 including postage are the GSDR Keel puppies.

Proving very popular, the puppies come ready trained with no issues and only require an occasional cuddle!

To rehome one of our pups please pay via Virgin Money Giving with gift aid if you can and email your receipt, name & address to info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Just Arrived Today! The GSDR awareness ribbons will be available from group walks & fundraising events for £1 or can be posted to you for £1.50.



Alfie and his sister Seren are the proud owners of two GSDR puppies. With a cute face like this how could Mum possibly say no?!



Introducing our Fundraising Co-Ordinators



Robert Hammond
Eastern
garthbrooksnofences@hotmail.com



Sian Jones
South West & Wales
jones-sian3@sky.com



Charley Walker
South East
charley_walker@ymail.com



Andy Peake
Central & North West
Razanne99@aol.com



Gillian Marsden
North East
Gillian.I.marsden@ntlworld.com



Penny O'Callaghan
On-line Co-ordinator
dirtyarry@sky.com



Maria Hamilton
Asst. On-line Co-Ordinator
mazbill@hotmail.com

If you would like to get involved in any fundraising or have any ideas for an event, please contact your Co-Ordinator. Our kennel bills are escalating and without the on-going efforts of our fundraisers we would be unable to sustain such high costs. Thank you to everyone for your efforts.

Move over Kate Moss, here come the GSDR Girls!

Headingley Golf Club was the venue for the first fashion show held in aid of GSDR which raised over £500. Our very own Alison Elphee (complete with broken toe) & Emma Coldwell took to the cat walk looking stunning. Behind the scenes Gillian Marsden & team had helped to organise a spectacular event to be proud of. Photographer Mark Watkinson captured the evening for us, one week he's snapping our gorgeous dogs, the next our gorgeous girls –as the song goes, some guys have all the luck!

Gillian would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to make the event a success and to everyone who supported us.



Alison Elphee



Emma Coldwell



Looking good on the cat walk



Adding some glamour to the image of us dog walkers!

The GSDR Team:

Alison Elphee, Emma Coldwell, Alison Harrison, Angie Vaughan, Gillian Marsden, Julie Wilkinson and Angela Hargreaves

No mud, dog hair or full poo bags in sight!

Congratulations ladies on a successful event.

How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

SW

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire / Gloucester

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220

SE

Kent / Hertfordshire / Essex / London / Surrey / East & West Sussex / IOW / Hampshire / Berkshire / Buckinghamshire / Oxfordshire

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinators : Tracy North 01189 745387 crystalsheps@gmail.com

Assistant Dog Co-ordinator: Lisa Scott 01255 473090 / 07971 883354

Eastern

Norfolk / Suffolk / Cambridgeshire / Bedfordshire / Northants / Lincolnshire / Leicestershire

General enquiries: Ann Opie 01400 262708 am1opie@gmail.com

Area Co-ordinator: Mandi Wilks 01692 584772 / 07810 568862 mandi2583@btinternet.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Ann Opie 01400 262708 am1opie@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

Enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

North West

Cheshire / Manchester / Merseyside / Cumbria / Lancashire

Area and Dog Co-ordinator: Irene Culverwell 0161 282 3594 / 07778 150561 iculverwell21@hotmail.com

Enquiries: Bill Kitchen 01524 784953 / Melanie Fairbrother 0161 494 7728

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

Wales

Area Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone 01568 797957 info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Matthew Young 07974 519620 / 01753 339084 m.young65@btinternet.com