

## THE JOY OF ADOPTING A SENIOR DOG

*In this issue we are highlighting the happiness that comes from sharing your home with an older dog. We bring you four stories of GSGSR's senior shepherds: Mace, Schuyler, Robo and Milo.*

### Mace

*by Mike Clausen*

In October, we had to put down our first GSGSR rescue, Rex, due to a brain tumor. When we adopted him in 2015, Rex was about eight and he was a legend! We did not have nearly enough time with that sweet boy, so once he passed, we started looking for the next dog to adopt.

We already had a second GSGSR rescue, Kylo, a three-year-old female. Our first goal with a new dog was to make sure he got along with Kylo. Our dog walker, Naomi at Bay Area Canine Club, thought Kylo needed a leader and that Kylo was missing her alpha, Rex. So we figured a calm older male was what we had to find.

At SF Animal Care and Control, I was introduced to Mace. He had a special look about him that spoke to me. Later that same day, I took Kylo to the shelter to do a dog-on-dog assessment. Kylo immediately greeted Mace with a play bow, something I hadn't seen her do since Rex passed. Mace and Kylo played together, wrestling around in the yard, obviously delighted with each other's company. I was sold. Almost.

I asked Naomi and Bay Area Canine Club to foster Mace so I could

see how he and Kylo interacted over time. Naomi said they played together great and that Mace looked to Kylo for comfort in an unfamiliar environment. At that point we decided to try a "sleepover" to see if Kylo accepted Mace into her home. Kylo said YES! She chose Mace as her brother so he instantly became a member of our family.

We felt no hesitancy adopting a senior dog. I know that our time with Mace may not be as long as it would likely be with a younger dog, but older dogs are resilient and amazing. Seniors are typically turnkey dogs: you bring them into your home and, since they have plenty of history with people, they fit right in. They tend to be on their best behavior. Rex taught us that a senior dog takes little work and all they want is to love and please you so they can be shown love right back. Mace was no exception.

He was a little shy in the beginning and so we gave him his space. He stuck by Kylo at all times except after dinner. In the evening he would go into the guest room to lie down by himself, probably looking to rest up from interacting all day with a rambunctious youngster. At bedtime he would follow us downstairs to curl up on his bed next to ours. Over time,

*continued on page 3*



## **GSGSR STATS OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS**

**103 DOGS**

### **SHELTER PARTNERS:**

**OAKLAND ANIMAL SERVICES  
SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL  
CARE & CONTROL  
STANISLAUS ANIMAL  
SERVICES  
TRACY ANIMAL SHELTER  
DUBLIN SPCA  
SONOMA COUNTY ANIMAL  
SHELTER  
STOCKTON ANIMAL SERVICES  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
ANIMAL SERVICES**

**76 Spay & Neuter Surgeries  
1 Eye Removal  
1 Amputation  
9 Months - longest foster  
2 Litters and their Mamas**



## **VETRINARY PARTNERS**

**SYLVAN PETS (Orangevale)  
SF SPCA (San Francisco)  
BLUE PEARL/NORCAL  
EMERGENCY(Daly City)  
ARROYO VET (LIVERMORE)  
ADOBE VET (Los Altos)  
AMERICAN VET (Stockton)  
GRAND LAKE VET (Oakland)  
MISSION PET HOSPITAL (SF)**

# from the president

Well, it's been 10 years! Hard to believe that it's been that long since December of 2009 when some members elected to break away from GSRNC and start Golden State German Shepherd Rescue. Our initial volunteers joined together, took on additional responsibilities, got a game plan together and began all the steps necessary to start a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. In those years we have worked to save over 800 dogs!

We have definitely had some difficult times in the beginning and still do, to the present time. We are not a large group – but we are a strong one. Our volunteers put in so many hours of their time to help the shelter dogs.

There is an abundance of Shepherds in all the shelters. Rescue is hard. It takes a physical and emotional toll on those heavily involved in the day to day operations. We see the best and the worst in humanity. We see dogs who have been pushed to their limits, dogs, who even though they have been dealt a nasty hand, still want to please you. Puppies and older dogs who want nothing more than to be treated properly and loved. We are limited on foster homes – which limits the number of dogs we can take. Nothing is more heartbreaking than having to leave dogs at the shelter because of our lack of foster homes. We would hope that someday we would be able to “leave no dog behind.”

Many organizations ask you to open your wallets (we also need donations) but I'm also going to ask you to open your hearts and your homes and try becoming a foster home. Please try just one dog and then see if you wish to continue. It could be for a week, a month or longer. While it is hard work and takes some adjusting to having a new dog in the house, none of that matters when you realize that you are saving a life and working to create a new family for someone. Golden State will help find the right fit for you to foster.

In addition to foster homes, we also need other volunteers in many areas, i.e., marketing, transportation, conducting home visits, answering the hot line and many others. Can you consider giving a few hours a week to help these wonderful dogs? You will find it extremely rewarding.

In closing I want to invite all of you to attend our 10th Year Fundraising Event being held on Sunday October 20th on the Vineyard Lawn at Wente Family Winery in Livermore. More details in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of Golden State German Shepherd Rescue.

*Joan Cannelli, President GSGSR*

## MACE *(continued)*

he's come out of his shell around us and he's just super happy, playful and loving.

Mace looks to Kylo to lead in playtime and on off-leash walks (in approved, off leash areas) where they tear off after each other. Now Mace checks back in with us way more than Kylo does. He no longer feels a need to seek love elsewhere.

Mace quickly integrated into our life. Mace can be left alone at home with Kylo, crate free, and I don't have to worry about them destroying the house. He is wonderful with new people, dogs, kids, and absolutely adores my mom. It's a relief to know he can be left with my parents where he will always feel safe and loved.

We do have to be careful whenever

misbehaves, which happily is rarely. He must've had a rough life, perhaps being yelled at constantly and thrown outside. He does shrink down if I reach for his collar too quickly or if I say his name too harshly. We've learned to exercise special care in the few times he does something wrong. He is an angel.

The best thing about adopting a senior dog is you get to see the joy in their eyes when you introduce them to new experiences. For most dogs that wind up as rescues, their lives have not been terrific. Sometimes a dog has been given up to a shelter due to owner illness, death or other catastrophic change in circumstances and those dogs probably did had a pretty decent life beforehand. I love remembering the first time I took Mace to the

ocean. You could see his excitement as he ran in wild circles, dashing in and out of the water, clearly having the time of his life.

I also love take Mace to off leash parks. Since he is older, he doesn't participate in the crazy fetch games we play with Kylo. He will wander, explore, and, when he's ready, will chase her around. Seeing him enjoy his new life, knowing he's feeling safe and secure, gives us so much joy. Older dogs are *amazing* and they reward you for every bit of love and attention you give them. I know we will always have at least one senior dog in our family.

# Schuyler *(right)*

by Kimberly Giles

A friend forwarded Schuyler's facebook profile to us. The description of her sweet spirit and the warmth in her brown eyes immediately drew us in. She was eight years old but her arthritis seemed completely manageable to us. And, she's beautiful! We had no hesitancy about adopting her. She is cheerful, easygoing, eager to please, good with all people and other animals. She's such a sweetheart!

Her transition from foster home to forever home was smooth. She was quiet and observant for about two weeks as we let her figure out our routines. After two weeks, she found her voice! She now keeps the neighborhood in line from her perch near the screen door. She howls with us. She talks to us and complains a little when we show affection to other dogs. She keeps up her side of the "conversation" with all kinds of vocalizations when we ask her to "tell us a story." She totally cracks us up!

She has changed our lives. Schuyler is a "parable on paws." Having one been neglected, she has clearly forgiven everyone, her lovely disposition teaching us more every day about forgiveness and kindness. If we can be more like Schulyer, we'll be better people.

We feel overwhelming tenderness for her when we see her sprawled on the floor, content in our company. Our conversations with her are always punctuated by the happy thumping of her tail against the floor.

She has slotted into our lives so gracefully. We were informed about her limitations, but we've had the joy of discovering her gifts and strengths.



# Milo *(left)*

Seven year old Milo was found as a stray in San Francisco. Poor Milo – he was micro-chipped, his people were contacted but they never came to get him. Russ and Linda are a couple who had just lost their ten year old shepherd and were looking for a new dog to complete their family. They'd checked out a few younger dogs but the high energy levels and the dangers for an older person of walking a powerful young dog on leash led them to reconsider.

GSGSR was aware that Russ and Linda were seeking the perfect dog. We asked them to come to San Francisco to meet and spend time with Milo at the shelter. It was love at first sight for Linda!

Milo hadn't had much time at the shelter to decompress, so we encouraged Russ and Linda sign up as fosters for Milo. When we brought Milo to their home, he attached himself immediately to Linda. Their backyard delighted him, he had so much to explore. After one month Russ and Linda officially adopted Milo.

# Robo *(below)*

GSGSR met Robo (12 years) at SF Animal Care & Control when Robo's owner had lost his home and was living in a car. His owner tearfully surrendered this sweet boy as knowing that he couldn't properly care for Robo the way he used to.

Robo was calm and patient in the shelter but we knew that it was no place for a dog who had been with his owners for 12 years. It was obvious he needed to get out of there and quick. He was pulled within a day of his evaluation, after securing a foster home via a Facebook plea. During his evaluation, Robo showed us that he was good with other dogs, loved people and he also showed off all the tricks he knew, our favorite of being "Robo, woof" in which he promptly started barking. This would end with "Robo, no woof."

His intake paperwork said that he had been living with cats who used to terrorize him and he just took it in stride. He's a big softy looking for a nice place to live the rest of his days. He's active, playful and a big goof! He settled nicely into his foster home and got along with all the human and animal residents.

While at GSGSR's Sacramento Adoption Day in July, a woman who works with a cat rescue on the same day spotted Robo and immediately called her brother who had been looking for a senior GSD. Robo's foster mom, Kelley then contacted the potential adopter, did introductions and the home visit. And now Robo is living with his new family!



## ONE BY ONE

(author unknown)

One by one, they pass by my cage,  
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way.  
Way past his time, he can't run and play.  
Then they shake their heads slowly and go on  
their way.

A little old man, arthritic and sore,  
It seems I am not wanted anymore.  
I once had a home, I once had a bed,  
A place that was warm, and where I was fed.  
Now my muzzle is gray, and my eyes slowly fail.  
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?

My family decided I didn't belong,  
I got in their way, my attitude was wrong.  
Whatever excuse they made in their head,  
Can't justify how they left me for dead.  
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day,  
The younger dogs get adopted away.

When I had almost come to the end of my rope,  
You saw my face, and I finally had hope.  
You saw through the gray, and the legs bent  
with age,  
And felt I still had life beyond this cage.  
You took me home, gave me food and a bed,  
And shared your own pillow with my poor  
tired head.

We snuggle and play, and you talk to me low,  
You love me so dearly, you want me to know.  
I may have lived most of my life with another,  
But you outshine them with a love so much  
stronger.  
And I promise to return all the love I can give,  
To you, my dear person, as long as I live.

I may be with you for a week, or for years,  
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt  
shed tears.  
And when the time comes that God deems I  
must leave,  
I know you will cry and your heart, it will grieve.  
And when I arrive at the Bridge, all brand new,  
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you.  
And I will brag to all who will hear,  
Of the person who made my last days so dear.

# Welcoming your foster dog

by *Candida Push*

A friend of mine adores animals. She adopted a cat from the SPCA. Turns out the cat was feral. Oddly enough, it's very affectionate but regards the person petting him as a tool at his own disposal. When he's had enough, he doesn't leave her lap. He bites her. Anywhere. Sometimes on the face.

My stepmother was another animal lover. She would swoop in, aching to gather up a dog and bring that mutt to her bosom. But do dogs like hugging?

Actually, a few do but not many. Most dogs feel trapped when you grab them in a your arms. If you're a stranger to that dog, he's liable to take it with even less friendliness. So how do you make your new dog feel welcome?

One size doesn't fit all. You will have to watch your new "houseguest" closely to determine her mood and what response you should make to it. Some dogs will scoot into a crate and hang out there for a few days, waiting to see if they have

landed in a safe place. For those dogs, the best strategy is to let them ease into your household at their own speed.

Some dogs will take to your other animals, playing raucously, but will ignore you. Again, let them. Pursuing a dog's affection often results in the dog running the other way. Every interaction should be sweet and mutual.

Your new dog may not be house-trained. Or perhaps he is but the upset of moving into a new environment causes him to have one or more accidents. If you see the accident "in progress," try to refrain from excitement. For a small dog, pick her up and wordlessly take her outside. For a larger dog, refrain from dragging her; instead, ease the dog toward the back or wherever you designate as the place of elimination. Attach a word or phrase to the behavior: "Here's where you pee-pee, Sparky." If Sparky complies, praise her warmly. If not, ignore it. The first couple of days should not be troubled by words the dog may perceive as scolding.

While it may be comforting or secure for your foster dog to sleep with you, or be on the couch with you, you need to first establish boundaries. "Four on the Floor" is a rule that we at GSGSR follow and want all of our foster homes to abide by this rule. Your foster will be learning many different things when it's new to your home, but by creating rules and boundaries first, it will help to set everyone up for success. If your foster does get up on your furniture, continue to move her to the floor without saying anything. German shepherds, as you know, are very smart. After the eighth or tenth time you move her off the sofa or the bed, she will begin to get your point.

Suppose your foster isn't eating in those first few days? Don't worry. Transitions are hard for dogs as well as for us. Pick up the food after 10 minutes and put it away until the next mealtime.

Sometimes a dog comes to GSGSR with a detailed history. Most of the time, little is known about the dogs we bring into the program. Be sure to ask for all the information available but don't be surprised if that is insufficient. In a few days, with your experience, you will be able to fill in most of the blanks.

Finally, however you welcome your new guest, you are a hero. Soon your new foster dog will know it too.



*Foster dog Joey enjoying the park in San Francisco*

# Lachlan, our journey together

by Tina Hannan

My foster journey began when I saw a photo of Lachlan posted on the GSGSR Facebook page. The post detailed the urgent need for foster homes so that the rescue would be able to pull deserving dogs, like Lachlan, from shelters where days are numbered. Lachlan's story and photo pulled on my heartstrings and I knew I needed to help this dog. I quickly filled out the foster home form and was quickly contacted by GSGSR. Originally Lachlan was slated for another home but on a quiet Friday I got a call asking if I could take her the following day. I was so excited to help that I cleaned the house from top to bottom... as if a puppy would care if my closet was organized and tidy.

On the first day Lachlan was with me I could tell that she had a hard start to her life. Her fur was scruffy and sparse or missing in many areas. Reading her foster file, I learned that she was on her last day at Stanislaus Animal Services. She had been there for an entire month and had lost 10 pounds in that time.

Lachlan didn't understand what to do with toys. My heart broke when I realized that she didn't seem to know that the toys on her dog bed were hers. It was clear to me that she had never been able to be a puppy, instead she was likely a perpetual momma and had never been given the affection she so desperately craved and deserved. I remember crying as I thought of how sweet Lachlan was to everyone she met despite having every reason to hold a grudge for the humans who had let her down early in her life. After what was perhaps her first dinner in a home, I sat on the floor and petted Lachlan and told her that her troubled journey was now behind her. How lucky was I that my job as foster mom meant that I got to introduce Lachlan to love and companionship?

Each day more of Lachlan's personality came out. She went from a reserved dog with meticulously calculated actions to a spunky puppy full of curiosity and affection. She quickly took to me and my family. Lachlan encouraged me to have better daily habits ranging from getting moving everyday with our long walks to remembering to drink more water as I watched her play in her water bowl.

I was so thankful to the incredible volunteers of GSGSR on the days that were more challenging. Lachlan began exhibiting signs of separation anxiety after a few weeks with me. When I reached out with questions I was given resources to help us learn to deal with her anxiety. I felt like part of a team that just wanted the very best for Lachlan. On top of that, I felt like I was supported as a foster home with check-ins, resources and a friendly team of volunteers to connect with as needed.

I am overjoyed by the progress Lachlan has made during her time with me. Her once scruffy coat is now soft and silky. She looks healthier thanks to the amazing veterinary care, a run

of medications, the pounds she enjoyed gaining back, and having a stable home to build her confidence. When I look at photos of her early days with me, it's hard to believe she is the same dog. She has blossomed until a happy member of the family. Being a foster mom has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I would encourage those considering fostering to reach out to GSGSR and learn more about the life-saving support a happy home can provide a deserving dog.

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*Tina loved working and rehabbing Lachlan so much. She let us know that she couldn't handle someone else adopting her and she will live out the rest of her life with the woman who helped to save her.*



FOOD

WINE

AUCTION

RAFFLE

MUSIC

DOGS

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**10TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
FUNDRAISER**

**GOLDEN  
STATE  
GERMAN  
SHEPHERD  
RESCUE**



**SUNDAY OCTOBER 20TH 11AM-3PM**

**THE VINEYARD LAWN AT WENTE**

**5050 ARROYO ROAD, LIVERMORE, CA**

**FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO:  
<http://gsgsrescue.org/gsgsr/events>**





**Golden State German Shepherd Rescue invites  
you to celebrate our Tenth Annual Fundraiser**

**WENTE VINEYARDS  
OCTOBER 20, 2019**

Our annual fundraising event will be held on the Vineyard Lawn at the beautiful and scenic Wenté Family Winery in Livermore. Come out and support our rescue as we toast our volunteers and the more than 800 dogs we have saved.

The afternoon will be a family style lunch with appetizers and dessert, music, ambassador dogs, silent and live auctions, raffle, and lots of delicious wine!

We hope that you can come out and help support us as we look towards a new decade of German Shepherd rescue!

\*Note that this will be an outdoor event\*

**TICKET OPTIONS:**

**Black & Tan – \$65**

Single Ticket, Appetizers, Family Style Lunch, Dessert, Wenté Estate Wines

**Sable – \$120**

Single Ticket, Appetizers, Family Style Lunch, Dessert, Wenté Estate Wines and also includes Wine Tasting in the Wenté Barrel Room (after the event)

**Long Coat – \$600**

Table for 10 guests, Appetizers, Family Style Lunch, Dessert, Wenté Estate Wines

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Black and Tan @ \$65/each: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Sable @ \$120/each: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Long Coat @ \$600/each: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check made out to GSGSR enclosed

Bill my credit card:

Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Discover

card #: \_\_\_\_\_

exp: \_\_\_\_\_ id #: \_\_\_\_\_ (back of card)

**Registration is limited.  
Cut-off for reservations:  
October 10**

**Mail form to:  
GSGSR Fundraiser  
6939 Cross Drive  
Orangevale, CA 95662**

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORSHIPS

## Platinum Sponsor \$10,000

- Name and Logo on our website, with a link to your website
- 2 tables for 10 guests
- 20 tickets for the 50-50 raffle
- Full page color ad in our event program

## Gold Sponsor \$5,000

- Name and logo on our website with a link to your website
- 1 table for 10 guests
- 10 tickets for the 50-50 raffle
- Full page color ad in event program

## Silver Sponsor \$2,500

- Name and logo on our website
- Dinner four people
- 4 tickets for 50-50 raffle
- Half-page color ad in event program

## Bronze Sponsor \$1,000

- Name and logo on our website
- Dinner for two people
- 2 tickets for 50-50 raffle
- Quarter page color ad in event program

This past year, Golden State has raised and distributed funds to treat our special medical needs dogs, to support our fosters with necessary supplies and vet visits, and to spay and neuter our dogs. We've also helped other community groups who need our assistance, including donations for:

- medical and training to rescue groups who are taking dogs that we are not able to bring in our program
- the Oakland Animal Shelter during their canine flu epidemic
- Sacramento community to acquire a police K9 in the memory of fallen Sacramento Police Officer Tara O'Sullivan.

We have only one major fundraising event each year that covers all our program expenses (75% dog care, 25% business expenses) as well as a few special projects like those listed above. We are run entirely by volunteers and are a 501(c)(3) charity. We rely solely on contributions and sponsorships are greatly appreciated.

Our Sponsorship packages offer an outstanding opportunity for exposure in the Bay Area. All sponsors will receive recognition at our event, appear on our event website, and in Golden State German Shepherd Rescue's upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in being a sponsor for our event please contact one of our volunteers at 877-447-4717 or [gsgsrfundraiser@earthlink.net](mailto:gsgsrfundraiser@earthlink.net).

**FUND A NEED:  
CAN'T MAKE THE  
EVENT, BUT  
STILL WANT TO  
DONATE?**



**\$1,500: PAYS FOR A WEEK OF BOARD & TRAIN**

**\$500: PAYS FOR SPAY & NEUTER FOR ONE DOG**

**\$350: PAYS FOR X-RAYS & IMAGING**

**\$150: PAYS FOR WELLNESS EXAM & BLOOD WORK**

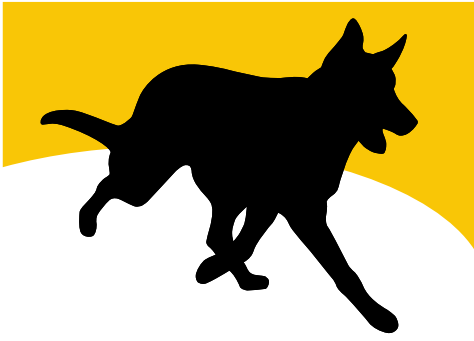
**\$75: PAYS FOR VACCINATIONS FOR ONE DOG**

**WAYS TO PAY:**

**PAYPAL: [PAYPAL@GSGSRESCUE.ORG](mailto:PAYPAL@GSGSRESCUE.ORG)**

**CHECK: SEND CHECK AMOUNT TO  
GOLDEN STATE GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE  
C/O GSGSR FUNDRAISER  
6939 CROSS DRIVE  
ORANGEVALE, CA 95662**





## **Golden State** GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

GOLDEN STATE GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE  
Post Office Box 2956, Alameda, CA 94501  
877-447-4717 (toll free)  
info@gsgsrescue.org  
[gsgsrescue.org](http://gsgsrescue.org)

# FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

## ALL EXPENSES PAID!

Can you open your heart and home to saving a dog's life? A short term commitment can make a lasting difference. We desperately need foster homes for our rescued dogs. Without foster homes we have no place for the dogs to transition to their forever homes. Fostering can be as little as one week or as long as three months. We pay for all medical needs, food and other supplies

**Please contact us if you can help.  
Foster homes are our greatest need.**

[\*\*foster@gsgsrescue.org\*\*](mailto:foster@gsgsrescue.org)

