

GSGSR

Quarterly

JANUARY-MARCH 2017

Rescue presents us with the best of the best and the worst of the worst. But even the worst cases can turn out to be good.

Bosco's previous owners wanted to have a litter with their GSD female. They found a neighbor who had a male. "Let's have a litter!"

Mama dog has the litter, and as the litter ages and becomes more inquisitive, with no fencing to keep the pups safe, Bosco decides to explore a neighboring country property.

That neighbor hates dogs. He sets bear-traps, YES, bear-traps, on his property to "stop dogs from coming on his property."

One day the neighbor calls Bosco's owner to say he can have his dog back if he wants... Bosco was in the bear-trap.

People generally think dogs cannot live a productive, happy, healthy life on three legs. Generally, that is far from the truth. In Bosco's case, his leg was so badly mangled, it was not repairable. Being a young, otherwise healthy, vibrant pup, Bosco would likely do well on three legs. But for his owners, reality sets in when they get the quote for amputation costs, hospital care and after care. Plus in-home recuperation can be difficult when owners work full-time. Caring for a fragile, freshly amputated dog is more than stressful. Medical care from beginning to end is quite expen-



sive, costing as much as \$4-\$5000.

There are so many things to consider when we are asked to help a dog with an emergency major medical case. First, do we have someone available to foster immediately and during the healing process? One month of 24/7 aftercare is necessary. Two more months of careful watch is expected. Second, how do we pay for the surgery and on-going medical needs? Third, who can do the surgery immediately? Fourth, can we work out all the fine details to make this happen with a team of people ready to act immediately?

For five-month-old Bosco, all the everything lined up! Stacie and Scott

said they could immediately foster and care for this precious pup. A few of GSGSR's very special donors immediately pledged money for Bosco's surgery. Our vet was ready to do surgery immediately. And, that great team of people from GSGSR rallied around Bosco and made everything else happen post haste.

Bosco came through surgery beautifully. It took just 72 hours for Bosco to easily maneuver around his foster home, with tripawd brother Joey leading the way. Now almost a month post-op, Bosco still needs to be neutered, but otherwise he's ready for adoption. He is one sweet pup, loves every-

one, and will be the best cuddle bug anyone could ever want.

What was once a horrible situation, Bosco's life has come full circle, and he has the brightest future possible, thanks to our donors, volunteers and medical professionals.

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Your donations to the Siggy Fund for special needs dogs helps us pay for dogs needing extra medical care. The Siggy Fund was named in honor of our rescued puppy who also had a leg amputated. Siggy has found a wonderful home and has attended our annual Gala where he enjoys loving on everyone in attendance! ■

MONTHLY ADOPTION DAYS

1st Saturday of the Month

Robinsons Feed Store
1150 East Victor Road
Lodi
10 am to 1 pm

2nd Saturday of the Month

Pet Food Express
3916 Bel Aire Plaza
Napa
10 am to 1 pm

3rd Saturday of the Month

PetSmart
1738 Watt Ave. (at Arden)
Sacramento
10 am to 1 pm

3rd Sunday of the Month

Pet Food Express
Stonestown Galleria
3160 20th Ave.
San Francisco
1 pm to 4 pm

4th Saturday of the Month

Pet Food Express
609 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
Danville
11 am to 1 pm

*Please check our website:
gsgsrescue.org
for updates; if the Saturday
falls on a holiday we may not have
an adoption event that week.*

*Jemma (right)
snuggles with
GSGSR volunteer
Jennifer. Jemma
is available for
adoption.
Jennifer is taken.*



from the president

We were successful in rescuing a total of 103 dogs in 2016 making a total of 766 dogs since our inception! Each dog rescued from a life-threatening situation, given appropriate medical care and is now either ready for adoption or living in a new, loving home. These successes are due to the energy, devotion and hard work of our volunteers, along with the generosity of our sponsors and donors.

Golden State German Shepherd Rescue can only exist as a group effort. The various steps involved in rescuing each dog include the initial evaluation, fostering, arranging and transporting the dog for proper vet care, setting up adoption days, interviewing potential adopters and conducting home visits. All of this is extremely expensive. To minimize boarding costs, all of our dogs go into foster homes. This is where we really need to have additional volunteers.

Additionally, we work with each dog to determine their temperament, health, behavior issues and any individual needs. For some dogs this is their first time experiencing love and attention. Our objective is to save these homeless German Shepherd Dogs and to find loving forever homes for each one. To all active volunteers: my thanks to each of you for all your devotion and hard work. If you are not a volunteer and are interested in joining our group, we can use your help in many ways. Please

consider being a foster home, becoming a sponsor or donating your particular skill to benefit the dogs.

We hold an annual fundraiser each year which enables us to continue our work. Our 2016 Gala produced a net income of \$49,473, however, our expenses for 2016 were \$91,533. We maintained a balance from the previous year which allows us to continue our efforts in 2017. Without the Gala income, we could not continue. Please plan on attending our 2017 Gala to help us save dogs and have a good time doing so (see sidebar at right).

We are focusing on education this year. We held an annual meeting and class on January 29 in Danville which was very well attended. The class went over some of our policies and procedures and everyone had a chance to exchange information and have questions answered. Our next class will be on Dog Behavior and will hopefully be held April 9th in Oakland.

Adoption Days now have expanded to five (see sidebar). Please check our website for times and locations. Come join us and meet our dogs and think about volunteering in some capacity. ■

joan cannelli

PETS & SENIORS

Pets have been shown to be good for their owners' physical, mental and emotional health and well-being. Because so many elderly individuals live by themselves, pet ownership is a great way to bring a sense of companionship, connection and purpose into your golden years.

In addition to reducing stress, seniors also find that pets can lower blood pressure, boost physical activity, improve mental sharpness, and foster the feeling of increased social connection — to name a few benefits! Perhaps this is why nearly half of all Americans over age 65 own pets.

If you're a senior who has been thinking of bringing a furry friend into your life, here are some things to consider:

Type of Pet

The type of dog you choose should fit into your health and lifestyle. Older dogs usually have a lower energy level. Golden State German Shepherd Rescue selects dogs specifically for their good temperament.

Spend some time bonding with the pet before officially deciding to bring it home. Make sure your personalities are compatible, and that its size and energy level will work for your home and lifestyle.

Home Preparation

Whether you're bringing home a puppy or an adult canine, you'll need to make some adjustments to make sure your home is completely safe. Start by looking for escape opportunities like ripped screen doors, broken gates, and large gaps between fence posts. Fix or block off these areas as necessary to make sure your pet stays safe.

Check labels on any of your home cleaning products to find out which ones are toxic. Make sure they are

stored somewhere secure and completely out of reach from a dog. Your new dog will be curious and will want to investigate when it arrives. You'll also want to be mindful of food that you leave on the counter or in low cabinets, especially when it comes to chocolate.

Foster Pets

There are always animals out there in search of forever homes, but if that feels like too much of a commitment for you right now, perhaps you could consider the fostering. Fostering provides the same mental, physical, emotional and social benefits as owning a pet longer-term. However, foster pets are a better option for some seniors thanks to the shorter term commitment. GSGSR is always looking for new foster homes and pays for all food, supplies and medical needs.

Regardless of what type of pet you choose, one thing is for certain: this will be an incredible opportunity for you to form a bond with a new companion. The improved physical and mental health, along with the potentially reduced rates of depression and anxiety, are just icing on the cake. Taking the leap into pet ownership is not a decision to be taken lightly, but it can be a very meaningful and worthwhile decision for many elderly adults. ■



Mark your calendars for our 2017 Gala: October 7. It will be held at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We had a great time there last year. Make plans to join us this year for another fun night of appetizers, dinner and live and silent auctions.

More info will be on our website later in the Spring.

XENA

June 22, 2016 : Xena surrendered to the Tracy Animal Shelter by her owner who could no longer keep her after moving into a new home.

June 27, 2016 : Golden State German Shepherd Rescue was notified that Xena was available for adoption or rescue.

July 8, 2016 : GSGSR was notified that Xena was hours away from being euthanized due to Fourth of July overcrowding: "To be honest, we just reached max capacity here at the shelter so we have to begin euthanizing and Xena has been here the longest so it is unlikely she will be here through the weekend. If anyone has a sincere interest, please have them contact the shelter immediately as I cannot promise she will be here even one more day." But shelter staff, fell in love with her, held Xena until she could be evaluated.

July 9, 2016: Xena was rescued by GSGSR.

August 6, 2016: Xena was adopted to a home in Manteca.

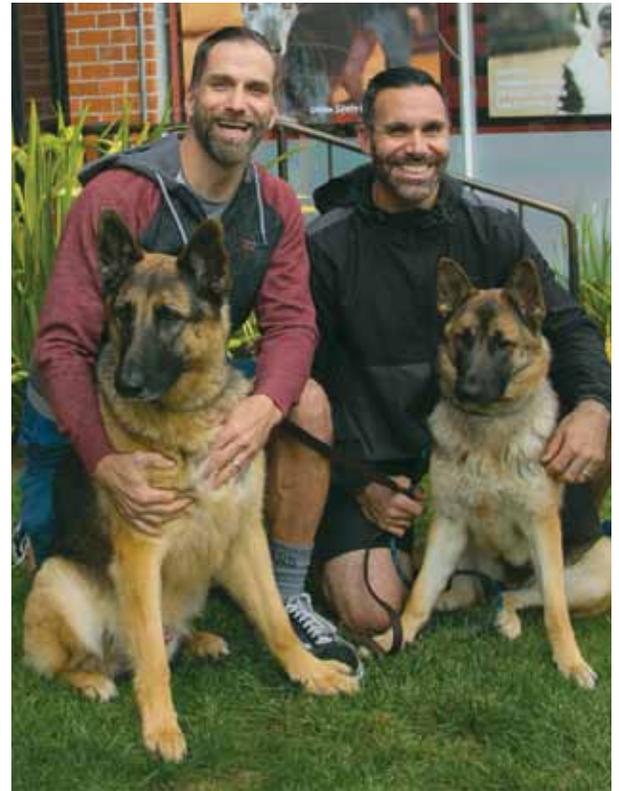


FOSTERS NEEDED

What is a foster home? A foster home is a transition time, sometimes it is the first time a dog will experience the true meaning of a family, maybe the first time he/she has ever slept inside or experienced love.

Most of our dogs come from shelters and the majority of those dogs were picked up as strays. On occasion we do have a history of the dog, but that is rare. Our evaluators look for:

- first, people friendly dogs
 - second, dog friendly dogs
 - and third, a bonus would be cat or small animal friendly dogs.
- After dogs are pulled they go to a more experienced foster home (usually the evaluator's home) first in order to get a better read on the dog and what type of foster home would be best.



Mike and Billy with their adopted dog Rexx (left) and foster girl Tippy.

If we know the dog does not like cats we will not put him into that type of environment. Dogs who go into a foster home are much easier to place in forever homes because we get better information on their personality, behavior, energy level, etc. Our foster families are asked to help teach the dog house manners, walking on a leash, house/potty training even some basic obedience. We are not asking for top level competitive training, just some basics. This helps the dog grow in confidence and learn boundaries and this in turn helps the dog look more attractive to potential adopters.

Our goal is to find the best forever home for our dogs and our fosters are a tremendous help in making the best match because they know the dog's temperament and abilities.

Are you interested in becoming a foster home? If so, the first step is to fill out our online Foster Questionnaire. After we receive that, our Foster Coordinator will contact you, ask you some questions over the phone and then setup a home visit. We are looking for a safe environment for the foster dog to come to. We provide training, answer questions, and provide food and supplies. We ask that as a foster home you make the dog available for as many Adoption Days as possible, however, the dog must attend at least one a month. The foster home is asked to provide pictures and a little bio on the dog which will be added to our website.

Is being a foster an easy job? It may not always be easy, but it will be rewarding. You are the family that is helping this dog find their forever home. I have been fos-

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A PUPPY FOSTER HOME

All of Golden State German Shepherd Rescue (GSGSR) are special but Cathy and Glenn Bollong set themselves apart as being our go-to family for taking in and raising abandoned German Shepherd puppies. Cathy reports that, over the past 3 years, they've taken in 15 puppies as young as 8 weeks.

While nervous at first, Cathy says it gets easier over time. What's to be nervous about fostering a puppy? She says that, at first, it was just the fear of the unknown – how is this going to go? Will I do the right things for the pup? But, "German Shepherds will show you the way to them." It's a wonderful experience, she says. "You provide a home and give them 'three-squares', crate training, some obedience, and love and affection."

Cathy's first GSD foster was Pearl, 7 or 8 years old. In the short time they had together (Pearl died of cancer a year-and-a-half later), Cathy took bi-color Pearl in when her owners were retiring and moving. Left alone in the back yard by those owners, Cathy had to start by earning her trust. Pearl was "the smartest dog" and easily earned her Canine Good Citizenship award. Losing her left Cathy grief stricken.

Cathy says that she is the puppy disciplinarian, helping them understand boundaries and basic commands. Glenn teaches them how to be lap dogs, lavishing love, attention and play on each one. But the real puppy-raising master is Lily, their GSD. Cathy tells of one foster pup, Jackson. When she took Lily to pick up the pup in Gilroy, she walked to two for a bit and they became fast friends.

Jackson liked barking at everyone in the neighborhood. Lily, however, doesn't like barking and the puppy soon learned that barking was not okay. With her "bossy attitude," Lily let Jackson play with her toys as long as he understood they were her toys. Having Lily as a role model, especially for potty training, is an important part of training the puppies, some of which come to GSGSR "damaged" in some way from their young pasts.

Cathy is amazed at how different each puppy is. They are all smart



but, as she and Glenn get to know each puppy, their individual personalities come to shine through. That's the magic of fostering that ensures each rescued dog eventually goes to the right home. So magical, in fact, that Cathy and Glenn, who live in the Sierra foothills, will keep on doing it until they can't drive.

Asked about what she thinks keeps people from fostering, Cathy said that it boils down to one issue: "I don't know how you can give them up." She says, "I do the best I can when they go to a new family, then it is up to the puppy to do the best it can." You can't keep them all, she adds, and says it is so rewarding to know that you did do the best you could so the once abandoned German Shepherd puppy can go on to live a wonderful life with a new, loving family. ■



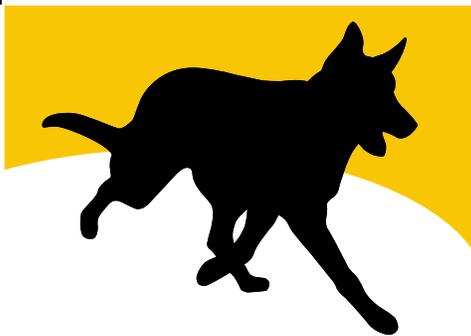
Cathy and Lily (left) are currently being foster moms to puppy Koi (above). Koi needs to grow some more and have her shots and spay before she is available.

tering for over 13 years. I have had a lot of dogs come through our home, some were easier than others. Do I remember all of their names? No unfortunately, what I do remember is the happiness of the forever family taking their new family member home.

is just a short time? If you, or someone you know, is interested in fostering please have go to our website for more information, better yet fill in the Foster Questionnaire and open your home to a beautiful Shepherd. ■

marsha adamak

Take a look around your home; is there room for another dog/puppy even if it



Golden State GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

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ggsrescue.org



SULLY

Sully had a rough start at his first owner's home; he came into the shelter (April 26th) with a moderate case of mange which covered the entire top of his back, his face (top of head to his neck) and all of his chest. But he started healing quickly and was in top shape for adoption on July 23. He was adopted by a lovely family in San Francisco and became a happy, healthy, playful, social and affectionate dog.