



Hello everyone,,

As we race towards the end of yet another year, time to reflect on what we have achieved and the monumental task we face as a rescue both now and going forward into a new year.

Despite the number of rescues now operating in the UK, we are still seeing far too many dogs that need to find homes and the reasons for rehoming are getting ridiculous. People are buying these dogs without adequately researching the breed, they are not prepared to put in the training to teach their dog how to behave and then they use rescue to offload their problem dogs. Dogs are now regarded as commodities instead of sentient beings.

Although we are getting record numbers of adoption applications, we face different problems to what we did a few years ago. People don't want older dogs, they don't want dogs with medical issues and they want perfectly behaved dogs. Many potential new owners simply are not prepared to put in any effort with behavioural issues.

This means we have far too many dogs sitting in commercial boarding kennels running up substantial kennel bills because they are not quite perfect or match the shopping list given to us by potential new adopters.

It's so sad to see dogs in kennels waiting to be adopted, some of whom have been incarcerated for over a year. Tosca is spending her third Xmas in kennels - how sad is that? Despite the tough tasks they face, volunteers are working harder than ever before, often having to deal with rude and difficult people.

Once again I would like to thank all the volunteers and fundraisers who have made GSDR the success that it is.

On a personal level, this has been a difficult month as Kola our 10-year-old black GSD suffered a bloat which is the first I have ever seen. Thankfully I recognised the symptoms and got him to the vets straight away where he underwent surgery and is now



fully recovered. But worse was yet to come. You may all remember Sally, the pregnant dog that was abandoned and tied to a tree. Her 8 pups came to us and all were rehomed except Lad who stayed with us. Entirely out of the blue his health began to fail, we discovered that he had an inherited disease known as Juvenile Nephropathy and his kidneys were failing. We had to make the awful decision to have him put to sleep at the age of just 2. We will never forget this little dog, he held a very special place in our hearts and we have many happy and fond memories of him despite his health ups and downs. At least he knew what it was like to be loved, but not all dogs are so lucky.

Please rescue and please consider one of our long-term kennel dwellers, so they too will know what it is like to be loved and cared for.

“An activist is someone who cannot help but fight for something. That person is not usually motivated by a need for power or money or fame, but in fact is driven slightly mad by some injustice, some cruelty, some unfairness, so much so that he or she is compelled by some internal moral engine to act to make it better.” — Eve Ensler

Best Wishes,

Jayne

GSDR 2018 CALENDAR



Enjoy the whole year with pictures and stories of our stunning rescue dogs

These top quality calendars are just £10 each
with an additional £3 for p&p

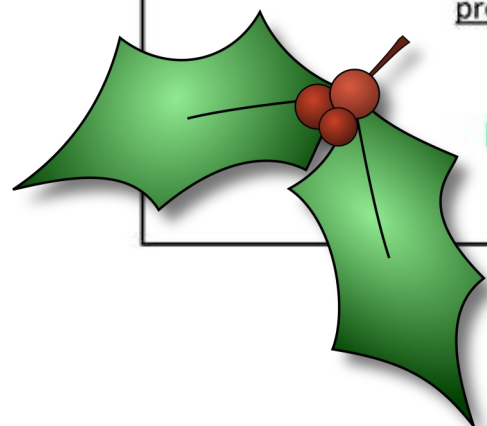
Multiple orders of up to 3 calendars can be sent
for just one postage charge of £3

A great Christmas Stocking filler

To order please visit our website www.germanshepherdrescue.co.uk and
make your payment by using the 'Virgin Money Giving' link
(Please DO NOT tick for "Gift Aid" as Gift Aid cannot be accepted for purchases)

Then email janinekerr@sky.com with the subject heading "GSDR Calendar"
providing your receipt number, name and address

Beat the Christmas rush and order now



GSDR Christmas Cards 2017

A team of NE Volunteers have come together, and after running a competition to choose the featured photos, have produced GSDR Charity Christmas Cards for 2017. Packs consist of 15 C6 cards of 15 varying images printed on 300gsm card with matching envelopes, all shrink-wrapped.

Costs are; 1 pack: £4, 3 packs: £10, 10 packs: £30.

Packs can be collected from group walks; GSDR Yorkshire Walk Group; 26th November, 16th December. GSDR Northumbria Walk Group; 2nd December. GSDR East Yorkshire Walk Group: 16th December.

Postage is also available: 1 pack (£1.30), 2 packs (£1.75), 3 packs (£2.52), 10 packs (£5.50).

Please contact Toni Pickering (Facebook or toni_pickering@hotmail.com) for more information and to order.



And while you're Christmas shopping don't forget easy fundraising!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for German Shepherd Dog Rescue?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/germanshepherdrescue/> and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and German Shepherd Dog Rescue will be really grateful for your donations.

So far we've received a total of £13,145.39 since we joined easy fundraising, this is generated from your donations from your online shopping.





More than 800 people flocked to the Dickensian Market in Buxton. Now in its 26th year, not even a thick layer of snow could keep the shoppers away, all spending with the knowledge every stall was representing a good cause. Representing GSDR was Margaret and Sarah, the ladies raised a fabulous £152.70.

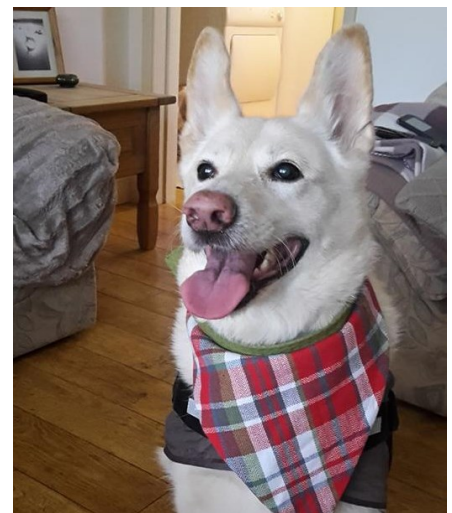
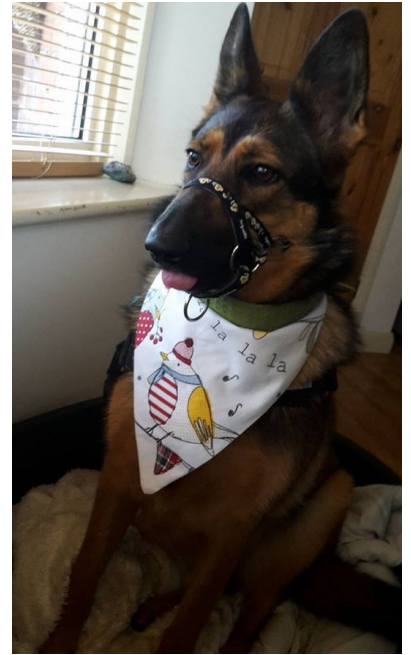
They also very kindly donated £20 to the Edale Mountain Rescue who were collecting to raise funds to buy a drone to assist with their work. Earlier this year one of their volunteers adopted our little Lady, here's some recent pictures of her in training at which she's excelling. She can't get to work fast enough, especially as the casualty she finds rewards her with a game of tuggy!





The East Yorkshire Walk Group get set for Christmas

Following a muddy but thoroughly enjoyable walk at Beverley Beck where the dogs dressed for the occasion, the group raised a staggering £420. They all set off for the walk nice and clean and looking festive.....



Of course they found the mud and water...



And the long anticipated draw for the hampers took place with first prize won by Mark Panther, 2nd prize Tony Pocock and 3rd prize Kate Bartlett.

And what fab hampers they were too!



Diane Johnson donated the £50 she raised on her car boot stall



Sharon Stevenson has been out fundraising for Rex her gorgeous foster boy pictured below.

Rex found himself in the dog pound in a terrible state and luckily found his way into Sharon's home where he's continuing to be nursed back to good health. Poor Rex's ears are still causing concern so Sharon decided to fundraise to contribute towards his treatment. So far Sharon has raised £111 from tombola, raffles and a few very kind donations.

Keep up the great work Sharon and give Rex a cuddle from us!



GSDR

Registered Charity No. 1141122

**German Shepherd
Dog Rescue**

Friday 8th December 2017

**Fancy Dress Disco & Buffet
Charity Fundraising Event.**

*Would you like to help a dog
who is in desperate need?*

*You can help many dogs this xmas by
supporting GSDR
"Eastern Stars Fundraisers"*

*1st prize for best fancy dress.
Money raised from this event
will go to the charity.*



*To purchase tickets please
telephone/email
Sue Tyler
(GSDR Eastern Region
Fundraising Events
Coordinator)
07760300655*

suzannahloutylersdr@gmail.com

*Friday 8th December 2017
Venue 77, Ipswich, Suffolk,
IP3 8AB
7.30pm – 11.30pm
Tickets £10.00 Per Adult
Over 18s ONLY*

Bella and Buddy: a Love Story by Ann Leigh

Dog rescue is emotionally gruelling – even at our ‘soft end’ of the spectrum. We have lots of wonderful successes but it is our ‘failures’ that haunt us. We might have two dozen successes in a month but the one failure is the one that we remember!

So, it is good to record the successes and the tale of Bella and Buddy is more than that of two rescues – although important enough as that. This is a love story.

I will always remember ‘Gitere’. There is a post on Facebook of a grinning Staffie pair. One says to the other something like, ‘I’m called ‘Put that down’ or sometimes, ‘Stop doing that’. The pair are so clearly well loved dogs that this is funny and we can all relate to the joke. I laughed when I saw it, but never dreamed that I would come across this in real life. Even when I saw the paperwork and read her name I still couldn’t believe what I saw. This wonderful young bitch had been called ‘Gitere’. You still don’t get it? In the civilized speech it would be, ‘Get here’. It took me quite a while to work it out: I was paralyzed mentally by disbelief! This time it wasn’t funny.

We had been requested to rehome ‘Gitere’ as her owner told us that he was moving house and had to be out by the end of the week. We did not believe him but we knew that ‘Gitere’ had to leave. This excuse for a human being told us that he had called all his dogs ‘Gitere’, as that was what they answered to. He clearly had zero empathy or recognition of a dog as a sentient being, much less as a beloved family member. This poor girl lived outside on the veranda where she had her bed. We were told that she was allowed into the kitchen and hall occasionally. Isn’t it often the sweetest natured dogs that are so abused? Gitere was lovely and needed our help.

I put an emergency post on Facebook and had two offers of a foster home immediately. One of these was from Mandi Wilks, who lived within driving distance. She offered to pick ‘Gitere’ up that night and immediately set about rescuing her. It was only later that I learned that she was taking antibiotics at the time for pleurisy. Nothing will stop Mandi when a dog is in trouble.

I knew that Mandi had recently lost her long time family member Rebel. He left a big hole. Could this poor little waif possibly fill that? She was a timid, malnourished, ignorant little thing. Mandy’s pack of ‘rat dogs’ would probably adapt but how would Mandy’s other emergency rescue, Buddy, react to her? She had stolen our hearts but how would Buddy feel after losing his old play partner? He and Rebel were the same size and wrestled and bounded around together as equals. Buddy needed another dog that could do this. He was an emergency rescue from some time ago and a challenging boy in many ways. And how would Gitere react to an awesome Buddy? She was frightened of her own shadow and didn’t know anything of other dogs or even houses. Absolutely everything was new to her.

How often do I say to people, ‘Time is your best ally’. Mandi, of course, let Gitere (soon to be Bella) come into the centre of her home in her own time. She spent her early days cowering away in another room and, when in the kitchen, surfed the work tops. She knew nothing. She only sensed that she had a mum, now, and when Mandi brought her into the sitting room finally, she lay by her side just licking her endlessly. She was relieved to be loved and needed to be reassured about all the other dogs. But she is so intelligent, she was all the time weighing up the situation and assessing her chances as well.

Mandi and I discussed her progress daily and Mandi reported that she was settling and sorting out her place in the life of her home. Mandi was always doubtful that she would keep her. She maintained that she would teach her the basics and then she would move her on. How could this pathetic scrap ever be a real companion for Buddy? She was nervous and submissive and Buddy needed a full companion and play partner to mend his broken heart. How could this poor little waif ever fill Rebel’s big shoes?



We had just had a conversation along these lines when Mandi sent me, the very next day, a picture of the two of them playing together in the garden. Gitere was transitioning into Bella.



Never underestimate the power of an alpha bitch however life has treated her. She was coming into her power ... and how! Buddy is a big boy but she was rearing and wrestling with him, as though she had done this all her life. Once they started, she came on strong and Mandi told me that it was Bella, who pestered Buddy for more and more play.

Mandi began to see how their relationship was developing and how happy Buddy had become. I was trying to persuade Mandi all the time to adopt Bella. Her response was always that she was 'too easy' a dog for her. She could have been rehomed to any experienced owner, she did not need someone like her.

But then I told her not to be so selfish and think of Buddy's needs. By now, it would have broken his heart to be parted from Bella: it would be yet another bereavement for him. So Mandi agreed finally, just for Buddy's sake. The lovers could be together forever, not to mention Mandi herself!

The two were clearly in love but even Mandi didn't know the extent of their devotion until Bella had to leave for the day. She had to go the vets to be spayed and Buddy was bereft. He mourned for her loss all day. The picture below is of Bella comforting him upon her return. As I said, this is a true love story.



Team Fat Blokes 2017

2017 was year five of Team Fat Blokes!

Instead of retiring in 2017 TFB decided to do every other weekend instead of every week obviously this means lower income but the Fat Lads have still raised a few 'shillings' for the dogs in the North East.

TFB played their part in organising and taking part at Kirkstall Festival in July along with the other Team North diehards raising £1,502 for the dogs.

Unfortunately in August Ray had to have some major surgery to remove cancer putting him out of action for a couple of months and therefore not out raising for the dogs but -

Simon being in close contact with Ray and family with typical TFB concern regarding covering costs came up with the idea of a 'Just Giving page' reporting that half of TFB is 'Out of Order' for a while. Well it raised £1,677!

December TFB/GSDR North East volunteers have been nominated by four Pets at Home stores for the Santa Paws charity drive so a busy December for volunteers in the North East which should provide more funds for the dogs.

What's the future of Team Fat Blokes???

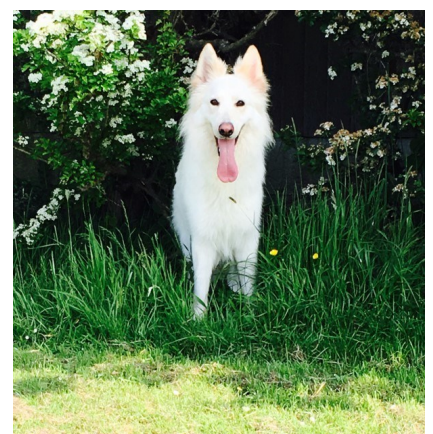
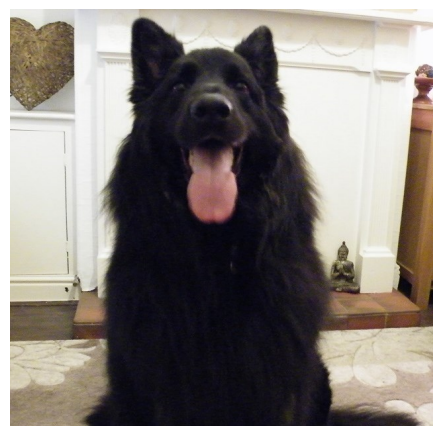
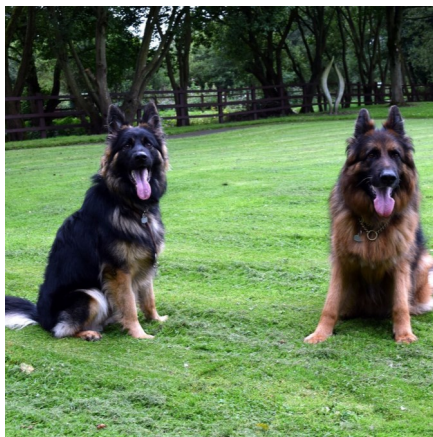
Well, TFB will be taking January and February off but re-partnering with the stores during this time and trying hard to get more supermarkets and new venues, there will of course be another Kirkstall festival in July.

And so the wicked sense of humour continues!

North West and Central region update by Irene Culverwell

Can't believe its December already - another year has definitely flown by. Just wanted to wish everyone a cracking Christmas and a super happy 2018 and more importantly a huge **thank you** for all your help as volunteers for GSDR NW & Central.

There have been 159 home checks completed, sadly not all convert to adopting as they may not pass the rescue's criteria, they change their mind, we are helping an overseas rescue or they simply go elsewhere but for those lovely people who do proceed we have managed to find fabulous new forever homes for 65 sheps, ranging in age from youngsters to seniors – I couldn't possible show every dog here but below are a few pics to remind us of why we do what we do to help German Shepherds



And they lived happily ever after...

.Merry Christmas Everyone and thanks again for all your help, Irene

Yorkshire Walk Group Christmas Fayre



There were lots of goodies on offer at the Christmas Fayre and some very yummy cakes.

The dogs weren't left out and there were very dapper bow ties on sale courtesy of Anne Wood.



There was a great turn out for the walk.

And of course there was mud for the dogs!



A huge thank you to Alison Elphee and everyone who helped make this event such a great success.

You raised a staggering £846.93!





Crossgates Shopping Centre

Pictured here is Peter Hopkins with Freddie and Mark Panther's beautiful Bella at their stall at Crossgates shopping centre, Leeds.

Gillian Marsden, Sheila Pankhurst, Alison Harrison and Mark and his Mum were all kept busy relieving the generous shoppers of **£635.26!**

An absolutely amazing result, well done everyone



It's ok, they will just think Santa ate them.



Tom from Leeds BAGSD stopped by to see Julie Wilkinson with a very kind donation of £500, food and beds. The continued support from this great training organisation is most appreciated.

Back in March I applied to enter the Great North Run and was lucky enough to secure a number to do this. I knew that I wanted to raise money to help the dogs we take on in the north east region and thought this would be the perfect way to do it. I didn't have a particular target in mind, or a particular dog to raise for - then I met Henry.

He'd had a fairly poor life and ended up being surrendered to GSDR rather than being PTS after vets tasked with this contacted our co-ordinators. Henry was very wary to start with and the volunteers had to work with him to gain his confidence and bring him on. After a little while his new mum and dad came along to meet him and I was honoured to do the introductions and off Henry went to his new life.

Within days it transpired that Henry's story, as we knew it, was not the truth. He actually had untreated hip dysplasia and had been put up for adoption by his family with another rescue. When no one came forward to adopt him he was taken to be put to sleep by his family. Thankfully this never happened and he found his forever home, but still needed treatment.

At that point I decided to do the run for Henry.

A Just Giving page was set up and people started to donate. The final amount raised totalled £1,115!

This terribly sad story has a happy ending for Henry. He has a new start in life with a family that adore him and would never part with him. He is undergoing treatment and loving life.

To start his new life he has been renamed Bear, which suits this handsome, brave and wonderful boy beautifully.

Live long and happy Bear.

I'll do the same again next year for another dog in need.



How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

South East

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

Area Co-ordinator: Christine Merritt 01702 544974 Christine.merrittgsd@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Plastow 07715 172372 Julie.plastow@hotmail.co.uk

Enquiries Linda Wood 07771 778905 lingsd24@gmail.com

South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester

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

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

Enquiries Jo Martin 07921607001

Eastern

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

Area Co-ordinator: Ann Leigh 01263 860864 ajpleighgsdr@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Suzanne Thurman 01472 459528 s.thurman@sky.com

Enquiries: Sarah Carrs 01603 270044

Fundraising Co-ordinator Sue Tyler 07760 300655

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

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

North East

Northumberland / Durham / Yorkshire / Tyneside / Teesside & North Humberside

Area Co-ordinator: Angela Hargreaves 0113 225 5848 angelagsdr@gmail.com

Dog Co-ordinator: Julie Wilkinson 07736 815430 julie.gsdr@gmail.com

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Gillian Marsden Gillian.l.marsden@ntlworld.com

Enquiries: Sharon Coates 01751 417197

Wales

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

Dog Co-ordinator: Mandy Jones 07970592220 mandyj22@live.co.uk

