



Hello everyone,

I apologise that it has been a while since we have produced our newsletter but it isn't because we haven't been busy helping needy dogs.

We started the new year busier than ever without the usual post Christmas lull and with an immediate influx of yet more unwanted dogs. This was no doubt due to the fact that prior to the festive season we had to ask people to hold onto their dogs simply because we had no free kennel spaces, fosterers or adopters that could accommodate dogs at such a busy time. It was the same for other rescues. We are now fast approaching spring and of course Easter, which will also put us under enormous pressure as we will be short on kennel spaces as they will all be fully booked for the holidays.

Our volunteers are dealing with ever more difficult situations particularly unrealistic expectations from adopters who are rejecting dogs sometimes as soon as 24 hours after picking the dog up. The poor dog doesn't even get a chance to unpack his or her bags before we have the adopter screaming down the phone at us demanding the dog be picked up. We produce guidelines for adopters giving advice on settling your new family member into the home but it helps if adopters actually read them.

Rescue dogs are not damaged dogs, they have often been let down by humans and need more than 24 hours or even a few days to settle in to their new home. You don't really get to see the real dog until about 2 weeks after adoption so people need to be a little more understanding and patient. Rejecting a new dog is very damaging and unsettling for them it also makes them become less trusting of humans and more difficult for us to rehome.

There is no such thing as a perfect dog just like we are not perfect, so if that's your expectation buy a stuffed toy dog from Argos.

This year is going to be another busy year with lots of events being organised by volunteers. We will feature news and events on our Facebook pages as well as in our newsletter so please keep an eye out and support us where you can.

Remember that the rescue is run entirely by volunteers and we are always looking for new people to help in whatever way they can. You can apply to become a volunteer here - <https://www.germanshepherdrescue.co.uk/volunteer-form-i-177.html>

Once again I thank all the volunteers who make GSDR the success that it is.

"A dog is not a thing. A thing is replaceable. A dog is not. A thing is disposable. A dog is not. A thing doesn't have a heart. A dog's heart is bigger than any "thing" you can ever own." — Elizabeth Parker, Paw Prints in the Sand

Best Wishes,

*Jayne*



## **SHEPFEST 2019**

**29-30 June**

**Join us for a weekend of fun at Copmanthorpe Kennels, York  
YO23 3TL**

**Help us break last years record of having 93 GSD's in one place!**

Join us for a Weekend of GSD fun and games. To include 'Fun' Dog Show, Agility, K9 Games, Raffle and Tombola on Saturday daytime, then on the evening we meet up round the bonfire for drinks and takeaway.  
Camping available.

For more information please contact Denise Lea via Facebook

**Donations of Tombola, Raffle and Car boot items  
needed!**

# **GSDR EAST YORKSHIRE WALK GROUP**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR  
EASTER WALK**

**CROWN & ANCHOR PUB, TICKTON**

**MEET ON 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

**FROM 11.30AM WALK STARTS AT 12PM**

**ALL DOGS WELCOME**

**REFRESHMENTS AND CAKE AVAILABLE  
AFTER THE WALK FOR A DONATION**

**EASTER HAMPER DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE  
AFTER THE WALK.**

**FANTASTIC EASTER HAMPERS UP FOR  
GRABS AND OTHER GREAT PRIZES**

**ENTRY TO THE DRAW IS £2 PER SQUARE**

**AVAILABLE AT THE WALK OR VIA PAYPAL USING  
FRIENDS & FAMILY: [PayPal.me/SharonC722](https://www.paypal.com/paytouser/SharonC722)**

*All proceeds go to GSDR North East Region*



# GSDR EAST YORKSHIRE WALK GROUP

## EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE 2019



Support our charity and buy 1 square for £2. If you buy 5 you will get 1 free!

For a chance to win one of our fantastic hampers or other great prizes

Pay by PayPal –

[PayPal.me/sharonC722](https://www.paypal.com/uk/mec/philanthropy/charity/german-shepherd-dog-rescue)

All funds raised go to GSDR North East Region



Please comment how many squares you would like



**Don't miss out on your chance to win one these fabulous hampers**

**Email Sharon on [fivelive9@icloud.com](mailto:fivelive9@icloud.com) to choose your lucky squares!**

There are all kinds of roles undertaken by GSDR volunteers. One of the most critical is to foster our pups or grown dogs until we can find them a forever home. Here are the first impressions of fostering set down by our newest Eastern region foster recruit. All her adventures have taken place within a few short months.

We cannot find words to say how grateful we are to her and the rest of our teams of volunteers nation-wide. They are the true superheroes of rescue.

Fostering so what's all that about then? Jane King fills us in.....



My first four legged foster child was a threadbare little cross breed pup who was sporting a fetching orange roll neck pullover. He went by the name of Apone: well that changed - he was soon known as Dodger. He had been suffering from demodex hence his tatty teddy look.

He settled into life here very quickly, I have 3 dogs Mitch, Woody and Tess, 3 cats Brian Doug and Morgan, 2 goats Dave and Alan, 1 goose Bruce (called other things) several chickens but no partridge in a pear tree. I do have a pear tree, though.

Dodger found that it's fun here as my two young male dogs are always up for a game. He did have a scary moment when my dogs "vanished" out of the dog flap and then magically reappeared. He soon learned how to use that and there was no stopping him. Poor Dodger had to have his 'woolly pulley' on outside, the major downside to that was that, after Halloween, my goats, chickens and yes, the dreaded Bruce the goose, had left over pumpkins to peck at. They are what colour and what colour was said woolly pulley? Yes orange: cue a pecked bum poor Dodger. Never mind, he had his own cuddly leopard, who he slept with snuggled up to every night.

He soon found a wonderful home with a huge GSD sister called Willow, who adores him and washes him constantly. Now this poor chap is in a constant state of dampness.



Next on the list was Max, a whole different ball game. We picked him up from a car park off a white 'happy bus'. He proceeded to pee on my daughters lap and was the most nervous pitiful pup I had ever seen. He avoided any kind of eye contact, didn't want to be touched, had no clue about television, hoovers, washing machines and the general every day noise that goes with being in a home environment. He was happy to just stay in his crate with yet another cuddly leopard: there's a bit of a theme going on here. After a couple of days, he decided that we weren't too bad, and he began playing with the boys.

He also made my very elderly Lurcher Tess his adopted mum. The only major problem with him was, he never slept. I honestly have never known a pup be so stubborn as Max: he yelled insensately all night. He very nearly ended up in the shed! He really loved the company of dogs as opposed to people. He also found a home but was still very problematic in being nervous, shy and not wanting to interact with people. Then his new owner Pam took on an 11 month old GSD bitch called Rosie and now things for Max are looking a lot more positive. Rosie is confident and outgoing and Max will learn so much from her.



Next to move in was Dulcie, aka 'waggy' Maggie. She is a sweet gentle well mannered lady, although we won't mention getting on the work surface to eat the cat food or the contents of the rubbish bin on the kitchen floor!!! Moving on... she was so easy: she didn't bother with anything even the cats & chickens. I have to admit she wasn't keen on the goose, but loads of people would agree with her on that! She also found her forever home and when I phoned recently she had them firmly under her paw, quite right too.

So, to recap on my original question, what is fostering?

Well it is hard work and it can be frustrating and worrying. It is also unbelievably rewarding, fun and immensely satisfying! It is all worthwhile when you see these dogs suddenly realise that people can be kind and gentle and won't hurt them, and that life can be fun.

I do cry when they go: I'm sad that they are leaving me, but so happy that they are going to have their own family, I think I always will cry and perhaps, when I don't, I should stop.

I wholeheartedly recommend fostering.



Huge thanks to BAGSD Leeds and special thanks to Tom & Jean who dropped off a cheque for £1059.11.

BAGSD Leeds continue to support GSDR as we are one of their nominated charities.

What an amazing amount thank you so much.

# ASDA

Save money. Live better.

The very generous shoppers at Blyth Asda donated over £600 on bag packing day.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who volunteered to help, especially Rocky, Isla, Taran and Lola who were great examples of the breed. Quite a few people were smitten with them and expressed an interest in adopting, which is priceless.

Thank you Asda for allowing us to fundraise in your store.



Spring bulbs are beautiful to see, a sign that we're emerging from winter and there's warmer days to come.

But Tulips, Daffodils, Narcissus and Hyacinth to name a few are poisonous for your dog if ingested.



## TARAN'S STORY by Eileen Welsh

As a lot of you will know via Facebook, I lost Skye my black GSD on Remembrance Day (now I'll never forget that day!). His death was sudden, unexpected and not very pleasant and I found the whole situation quite traumatic. In 54 years of multi-pet ownership, I've never lost a pet like that and it hit me really hard, so I needed a little bit of time to come to terms with the loss – normally I'm a person who needs to fill the hole that has been left almost instantly and this was the first time in those 54 years I didn't have a dog or cat to run to the door to greet me and it was really hard. However, the huge hole Skye left in my life meant I didn't want to wait too long, so by the beginning of December my mind was working around adopting or fostering. On the 30th November Julie appealed for a foster home for Alex, who was coming in from Romania and I thought "We could foster him", but he was coming in to the country on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and in my sadness after losing Skye, I'd booked a week away in the Lakes to forget about everything and we were going on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. We were also going away with our family for New Year, so we decided to have our homecheck done so we were ready to go and look for a dog. Julie then approached us and asked if we would like to consider adopting Alex and as soon as she asked, I knew who he was and I said "Yes". I contacted Allison Hewitt who was fostering him and she sent us lots of photographs and videos of him and I asked to meet him. She was doing the Yorkshire Group Walk on the Saturday and we agreed to go down and join the walk to meet him – I knew before we even went that there was no question that he was coming home with us – I'm a fatalist and I think the fact that I'd wanted to foster him was just meant to be. So he came home with us on the 12<sup>th</sup> January and filled that huge hole left by Skye!



Through the wonderful power of Facebook, when I posted that we had brought him home and changed his name to Taran, which is Gaelic for Thunder – most of my pets have gaelic or Scottish names, I received a private message from Heather Bailey who supports a Romanian rescue over here and she told me his story and put me in touch with the lady who actually pulled him out of the Romanian Shelter.

He was found on the Romanian streets and taken to Slatina Public Shelter. Anyone who knows about dogs in Romania knows that the Public Shelters are a place of nightmares – they are not like our UK shelters. The dogs are badly treated, sickness and injury is ignored, often resulting in death and what food the dogs do get (and that's never enough) is thrown on the ground and it's a free for all, so the weaker ones starve to death and the bolder less stronger ones die from injuries fighting over the food. Taran was lucky, he was starving and sick, but he was pulled from the shelter and helped by Gabriella Eva who lives in Italy and spends her life rescuing dogs in Romania and elsewhere. She put him in pension with a Romanian Vet, George Ragu, to be treated and got ready to travel. Then she made an appeal over Facebook for someone to sponsor him and Heather stepped up and covered his fees and his transport to the UK and contacted GSDR to ask for help to find him a foster home. Julie put him on our North East page and Allison stepped up and offered to take him and the rest is history as they say, because be assured he is going nowhere else! So it really was a team effort across countries.



He is such a lovely inoffensive boy, undisciplined, unruly and very excitable and becoming more of a [lovable] idiot every day, but he loves people and dogs and there isn't a nasty bone in his body. He settled with us very easily, got on his bed in the living room and fell asleep the first evening, came upstairs and spent the whole night quietly asleep on his bed – can't count how many times I woke up through the night and checked and he was always there on his bed! He had a bit of separation anxiety at first – he still doesn't like one of us leaving the room, even though the other is still there, never mind the house! He also didn't like to be left alone – and who can blame him after the life he has had. However, we worked on it, giving him a high-end treat and walking around the block like billy-no-mates, starting with 10 minutes. We are now up to 3 hours and that's about the longest we'd ever leave him, so we're really happy about that. We started him straight away at doggy day care at Central Bark twice a week to give him free run around time and doggy play time and it was hugely successful - once you've had a reactive dog, you become almost paranoid about ensuring any future dogs never have to suffer the way he did. He's now down to one day a week and he's brilliant there. He spends his days mostly with about 3 other GSDs, a smooth haired Dachshund a doodle of some kind, a St Bernard and a Golden Retriever puppy who he apparently plays with all afternoon, so it's keeping him sociable and teaching him doggy manners because he's just so enthusiastic to meet other dogs, he sadly often frightens them! We've been taking him out to 2 local garden centres that welcome dogs for coffee – we haven't progressed to being there long enough to actually have a meal because he was a proper fidget breeches #typical GSD – LOL!! He's also had 2 visits to St James Bark, again to get him used to the idea of being left and learning we would always come back for him, where he spent time with Mick and Samantha (who loved him). He also enjoyed the experience of a bath on his second visit and Mick said he behaved really well and loved the blaster down his chest. He's also learned to stop greeding for food and to wait for his own food. Understandably with any dog that has been starved, food is incredibly important to him, but he has learned to trust that it's his and if he waits until it's put down at his feeding station and he's told its "OK", he will wait, so he's learning his manners and obedience. Coming back is still something that we are addressing. He's young and excitable and when he is let off lead he is just so excited he runs around like a horse crossed with a kangaroo and suffers from selective hearing!! So we hope we have well prepared him for his first annual holiday – 3 weeks on the west coast of Scotland, with hills to climb, beaches to run and of course meals out – the only thing that Skye could never really enjoy and it always upset us to leave him at the holiday cottage when we were eating out.

So in a matter of months he has gone from the pathetically thin dog you see in the first photo when he was in the Public Shelter, to being cared for by George and Allison and to the recent photos of his new life with us.



## How to Contact your Area Co-ordinators

### South West

Cornwall / Devon / Somerset / Dorset / Wiltshire & Gloucester

Area Co-ordinator: Jo Martin 07921 607001

Dog Co-ordinator: Jayne Shenstone info@germanshepherdrescue.co.uk

### South East

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

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

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

### 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

### 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

### Wales

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

Dog Co-ordinator: Jo Martin 07921 607001