



The GSROR Quarterly

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies

A Colorado Non-Profit Organization 501 (c)(3)



SAVE A LIFE – FOSTER A GSD



GSROR is in desperate need of foster homes! The more foster homes we have, the more lives we can save.

Fostering is such an incredibly rewarding experience. You're opening your home to a dog in need that may otherwise never know what love is and in return, you'll feel love like you've never felt before. There are many German Shepherd Dogs (GSD's) waiting to be rescued, but we can only help if we have a place for them to stay.

If you're interested in becoming a foster parent for GSROR, please read our Fostering Guidelines on our website at <http://www.gsror.com/foster-guidelines/>

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Pet First Aid Mobile Phone App

If your pet ran into the street and got hit by a car, or if he got into a fight with another dog at the dog park, do you know where you would take him for emergency care? If you were too far to take him to your regular veterinarian, where would you turn next? And, how would you know to trust the care your pet received? Luckily for pet owners, peace of mind is just a touch away!

The AAHA-Accredited Hospital Locator tool makes it easy for you to find expert veterinary care at accredited hospitals. Thanks to the American Red Cross' new [pet first aid mobile phone app](#), you can now locate an accredited hospital with just the tap of a screen.

Accredited hospitals are the only hospitals to be featured in the new Red Cross app. The app features AAHA-accredited hospitals in its Vet Hospital Locator tool, which helps you find an accredited hospital when searching based on your current location. Searching by your current location helps you find the closest accredited hospital in times of emergency.

Unlike human hospitals, not all animal hospitals are required to be accredited. Accredited hospitals are the only hospitals that choose to be evaluated on approximately 900 quality standards that go above and beyond basic state and provincial regulations. These hospitals are recognized among the finest in the industry, and are consistently at the forefront of advanced veterinary medicine. Veterinary care teams at AAHA-accredited practices are ready and willing to provide the best care to pets and strive to provide you with the best customer care.

The new app also offers tips and resources for troubleshooting emergency situations when en route to the vet. You can also create profiles for your pet to have on hand in case of emergency, complete with medications, notes about medical history, and veterinarian contact information.

The [Pet First Aid app by the American Red Cross](#) is available for both iPhone and Android for 99 cents.



The power of YES

Typically when people call me for training, it's because their dog is practicing some undesirable behaviors they are looking to put a stop to. I completely understand where they are coming from. I also know that it is human nature to focus on the things that bother us. One way to train ourselves out of this – and our dogs out of their bad habits – is to use the power of YES. Before we begin telling a dog what not to do, she must understand what she *should* be doing instead. My challenge to you for the next several weeks is to focus exclusively on encouraging your dog when she is doing good things; you may just be surprised by how much better behaved she becomes.

Psychologically, animals function in the moment and must be given real-time information about their actions. It is usually impossible to reward a dog with food the moment she performs a desired behavior. So, if your dog complies with a "down" command but is 50 feet away and it takes you 10 seconds to walk over with her coveted piece of chicken, how can you possibly identify the specific action that earned it for her? By using a verbal "marker", of course! Being supplied with auditory feedback (a "YES" the instant she lies down) allows her to pinpoint the behavior you like. You will achieve your training goals much faster this way because she is crystal clear about what you want from her.

The first order of business, then, is conditioning an association between the marker – the "YES" – and the food reward. There are different ways to do this but the simplest is to stand in front of your dog with a handful of yummy snacks, say "YES", and then give her a bite-sized goodie. You'll want to do this across two or three separate training sessions and do about 30-50 repetitions each time. Your goal is simply to establish a cause-and-effect relationship in your dog's brain between the word "YES" and the food reward, so she doesn't need to do anything to earn it at this stage. It is also important that you insert a momentary pause between the time you issue the marker and the time you deliver the food. In other words, start reaching your hand forward to give her a treat only *after* you've said "YES" and paused for a second.

Once this task is done, you can begin using your marker to capture and reward any behavior you desire. Every time she does something you like, tell her "YES" and then give her a treat. If she is acting naughty, withdraw your attention and pretend you aren't aware of her existence. For example, if she starts demand-barking at you, saying in effect "Give me a treat!" you can break eye contact with her and yawn as you walk over and sit at your computer to work. When she stops pitching a fit and lies down quietly at your feet for several minutes, you can reward her once again.

A couple of things to keep in mind: make sure your marker is delivered on time (issued while your dog is practicing the wanted behavior) – the actual reward can be given several seconds later and the timing isn't as important. Also, a "YES" is a promise for food. If you don't have any with you, don't say it – just tell her "good girl" and love on her a little.

The power of YES is a fundamental principle we will build on in our next instalment of Brian's Bite-sized Behavior Bits.



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Available Dogs



LOUIE

Louie is 9 and he is such a happy, playful boy who still acts like a youngster.



ATHENA

Athena is almost 4 years old and is looking to be part of a family that will give her lots of love and support.



BAILEY

Bailey is about 1.5 years old and is as sweet as they come.



TIA

Tia loves to be with people, car rides and walks.



BANCHEE

Banchee is a Labrador Retriever/German Shepherd Mix. She is a mild mannered sweetie in the house and loves to play fetch outdoors,



CHLOE

She is a very sweet, loving, affectionate, playful girl that enjoys just about anything



JAXSON

This adorable little boy is about 1.5 year old and is full of energy and love



For more information on the dogs listed above or about GSROR, please visit our website at www.gsr.or.com.



Available Dogs



SAMMY

Sammy is so loving and affectionate with the people she trusts and will shower them with kisses as she learns how to please.



NINA

Nina is a 1 year old girl that would like an active family to run and play with her.



SAM

Sam is a 4 year old girl that is very people friendly and a great family pet.



MOLLY

Molly is a 3 year old sweetheart that really loves being with people.



RUDI

Rudi is a sweet boy that is good with people, loves walks and car rides.



SHILOH

Sammy is so loving and affectionate with the people she trust and will shower them with kisses as she learns how to please.



For more information on the dogs listed above or about GSROR, please visit our website at www.gsr.or.com.



SPRING SAFETY TIPS



With spring almost here and Easter just around the corner, we thought we'd share some tips on how to keep your pet safe during the holiday and for the rest of the Spring season.

Lilies

Lilies are toxic to cats and can cause kidney failure. Even small amounts of lilies can be lethal. Lily of the valley can affect the heart as well.

Easter Grass

Just like string, dental floss, and tinsel, Easter Grass can cause vomiting and an intestinal obstruction. This is a surgical emergency.

Chocolate

Chocolate contains theobromine, a xanthine compound which is in the same family as caffeine and theophylline- and is toxic to dogs and cats. At low doses chocolate can cause vomiting and diarrhea. At higher doses it can cause a high heart rate, an irregular heart rhythm and seizures.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

N-P-K fertilizers (containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium salts) can cause mild gastro-intestinal upset, and also skin irritation on the paws. Fertilizers containing greater than 1% iron can cause iron toxicity if ingested by a dog.

Fleas, Ticks and Mosquitos

Fleas can cause skin irritation, allergic reactions and they can transmit tapeworms. Ticks can transmit many diseases such as Lyme disease. Mosquitos can transmit heartworm to cats and dogs, which can be fatal. All dogs and cats should receive topical monthly flea and tick prevention. It is very important to read product labels very carefully on all flea and tick medications as the misuse of such medications, particularly over the counter varieties, can lead to acute toxicity in pets. It is important never to use a dog product on your cat, or vice versa. The ingredient "permethrin" found in some dog medications, while perfectly safe for dogs can be lethal to cats even in very small doses.

Insect Bites

Dogs can also have severe allergic reactions to insect bites this time of year. Common symptoms are a swollen face and hives. If left untreated, the inflammatory response can cause severe illness and respiratory distress.

Fishing Hooks and Lines

It is important to keep all fishing hooks away from your pet. They can get stuck in your pet's mouth or paws. Fishing lines can cause an obstruction in your pet's intestines.

Leashes

Remember to always keep your dog on a leash when they are outside. Make sure all leashes and collars fit appropriately for your animal, and are not too worn from usage. Keeping your dog on a leash can prevent them from being hit by a car or getting bit by another dog. Bite wounds are common emergencies; make sure to always keep your pets rabies vaccinations up to date.

<http://www.vescone.com/for-pet-owners/pet-safety-tips/spring-safety/>



Find Me A Home PLEASE

Meet Henry Fonda -- Henry lives in Malvern, Arkansas and is looking for either a new foster home or a permanent family to call his own. GSROR is helping Penny, the angel who rescued him from the street, network this marvelous GSD. Henry needs to stay close to where he is living as traveling a long distance would be too much for him. You see, this sweet boy almost died from neglect so GSROR is helping Penny find a forever home for this sweet soul, even though we are in two different states. If you are interested in learning more about Henry please submit an application for us to process. Once approved, you will be given the information to talk to the guardian angel that saved his life and who is trying to find Henry his forever family.



Henry loves people and gets so excited when he sees other dogs, but we are not sure how he would do with other pets. His favorite activities are laying his head in your lap, wearing his sweater, going for short walks, having his ears rubbed and of course eating. Henry is currently in a foster home with the angel that saved him where he can build his strength and learn what love and proper care are all about.



Henry is an adult (age unknown) German Shepherd dog who was found on the side of a highway in Very poor condition. He looked as if he had spent his whole lifetime living with neglect as he was very weak, extremely malnourished and had very little hair. Henry was near death and before giving up he went on a journey to find rescue when along came a stranger that put him in her car and drove him to the nearest vet. After just a few days of warmth, food and love Henry perked up and showed he was ready to get better. Henry is looking for a loving, forever home with a dedicated caregiver that is ready to really help a dog in need. This boy deserves to be warm and safe living inside with his family no longer knowing life outside in the cold on the end of a chain or a pen.

Henry needs donations to help with his recovery costs. Donations can be made directly to Countryside Animal Hospital, Hot Springs, AR (501-624-2351<tel:501-624-2351> acct is under - Penny for Henry). He obviously has never had the home he deserves and he has shown us that he is really looking for a new start on life, a good loving life that he has never known.

Please complete your application at <http://www.gsror.com/adoptionapp/>

Our Mission Statement

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies (GSROR) serves the public as a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of homeless and abandoned German Shepherd Dogs (GSD) in Denver, Colorado and surrounding areas. While providing loving and temporary care, the goal of German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies is to find well-matched, carefully-screened, permanent homes and families for each dog. As a community resource, we provide nutrition information, referrals, education, and other services.

Our Board of Directors

Katie Hodgson – President
Mickey McNeal – Director
Marchelle Heslip – Treasurer

For up-to-date information & happenings with GSROR, visit our website at www.gsror.com